

Banks and building societies warned

Curb on credit threatened by worried Major

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

LOAN sharks, banks, building societies and credit card companies were yesterday warned that the government may bring in new restrictions on the national deluge of credit advertising and promotion.

John Major, the Chancellor, is particularly concerned about unsolicited mail offering free gifts to people taking out loans, and credit offers being pushed on young people and those likely to be tempted into excessive debt.

He told the Conservative women's conference in London, that he shared their worries about the pushing of easy credit. "Too often the implication is that further borrowing is a good idea for all, regardless of their income or their existing level of commitments."

He had asked the financial institutions to reconsider their policy and he urged banks and building societies to cover the problem in the code of practice they were drawing up.

Officials last night confirmed Treasury irritation at the tardiness of the credit industry in drawing up such a code of practice and made plain that if the financial institutions failed to get their house in order, Mr Major was ready to act. He said: "We shall look carefully at what they propose to see whether it is sufficient or whether any further action is necessary."

Loan offers might in future be made to carry warnings beyond the disclosure of the true annual interest rate, which is all purveyors of credit are forced to set out at the moment. Mr Major said: "Quoting a particular interest rate often does not bring home to people the full impact of their commitment. That impact ought to be made wholly clear to borrowers, in readily-understandable terms."

One question the Government will examine is that of the age limits governing those to whom credit advisers are allowed to send their offers.

The chancellor urged lenders to be conscious of the damage many people feel for indiscriminate mailshots. He said: "Many people do not like unsolicited offers of free gifts and other inducements to borrow. They are an irritation when they arrive with the morning post, frequently sent to people who do not want to borrow or who are in no position to do so. I wish, too, that lenders would not constantly stress, as some do, that potential borrowers have instant and easy access to credit. This sort of approach contributes to the impression of carelessness in lending."

The government has frequently emphasised its unwillingness to impose credit controls for economic management reasons, saying they are easily evaded and pointless when 85 per cent of domestic borrowing is represented by home loans. But Mr Major has served notice that unless the credit industry produces effective guidelines, there are likely to be tough restrictions on credit advertising.

Mr Major said there would be no relaxation of the battle against inflation in the run-up to the next election. "Our opponents misjudge us when they suggest we will engineer what they call a short-term pre-election boomlet. We will not. What we will do is to maintain a long-term attack on inflation so that we can build on the progress of the past decade". He admitted it was proving harder than expected to get inflation down, and said he would take no risks of allowing it to rise again.

Britain's trade position improved by £300 million last month from a deficit of £1.6 billion to a surplus of £1.32 billion (Richard Ford writes). The Treasury said the narrowing of the gap pointed to a revival of exports.

Opposition politicians said the deficit was the latest in a series of poor trade figures showing the failure of the government's policies. Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, said it was the 20th successive month in which Britain's trade deficit had been above a billion pounds. In any other European capital, that would have forced a policy rethink.

"This worrying trend shows that major underlying problems remain to be tackled. Our trade deficit with the EC alone is nearly £1 billion and these figures show that Britain is now in deficit with eastern Europe as well as western Europe," he said.

Mr Brown called on the Chancellor to negotiate Britain's entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System combined with industrial policy measures that would end the exclusive reliance on high interest rates.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats treasury spokesman, said people had become immune to appalling trade figures. He predicted that the government would not be able to meet its forecast of a £15 billion deficit for the year.

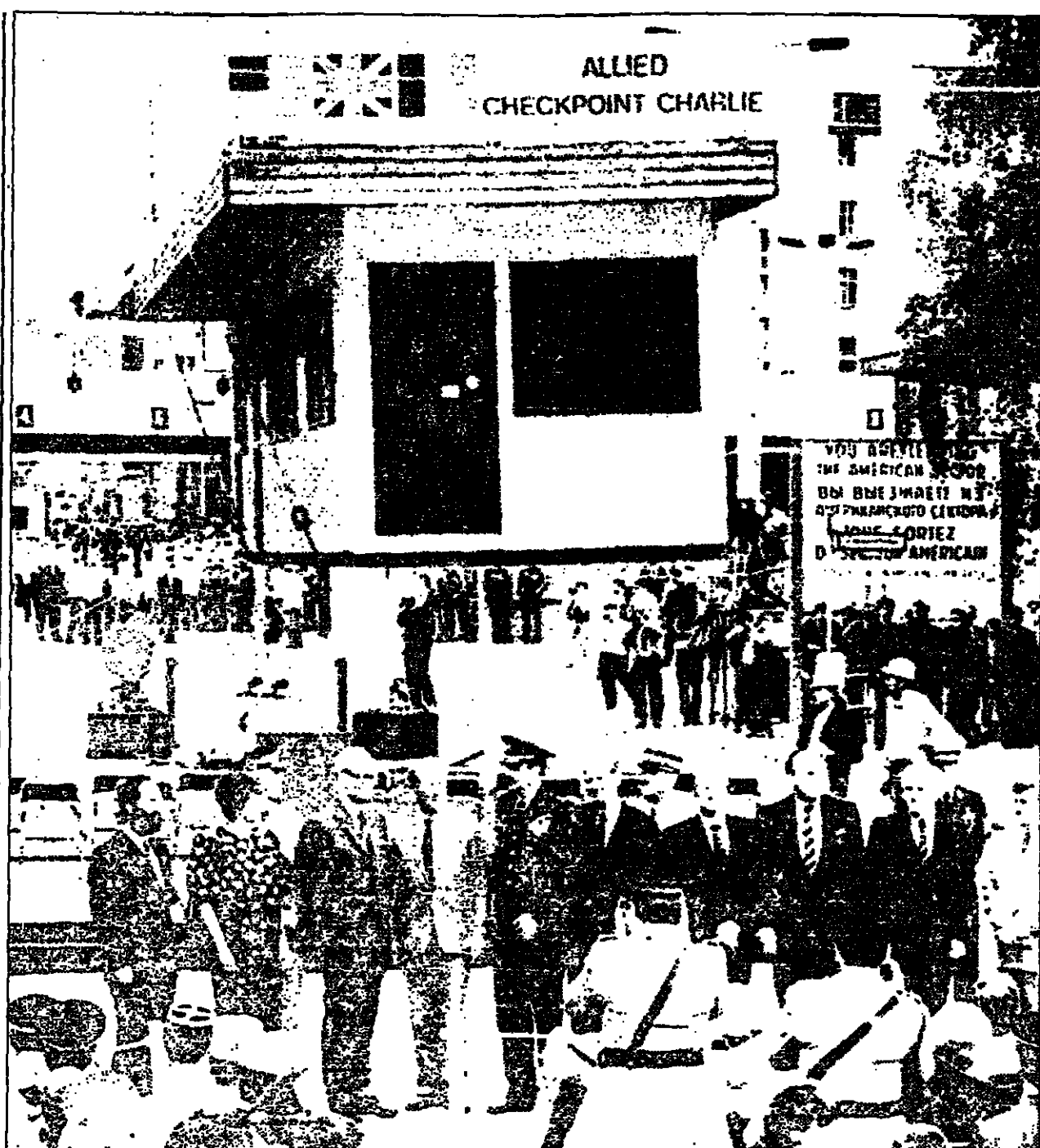
"Limited export growth is not keeping pace with our imports. All this might be an acceptable temporary price if inflation was being driven down, but it is not, and the government's anti-inflationary policy is in ruins."

At a ceremony attended by the foreign ministers of the four powers as well as their East and West German counterparts, the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze said that he would propose to the "two plus four" talks taking place in East Berlin that all Allied troops should leave Berlin six months after the joint German elections and that Allied control of the city should then cease. The suggestion was immediately rejected by the Western allies.

Crowds of West Berliners gathered to witness the ceremony while the residents of the houses overlooking the crossing point waited at their windows. Then came the request "permission to close theCheckpoint Charlie control post", and the response from American command, "formal dismissal of the attachment". Checkpoint Charlie was hoisted away.

The British foreign minister, Douglas Hurd, raised the biggest cheer by recalling one of the best known spy films set here: "At long last," he said, "we are bringing Charlie in from the cold."

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Aid workers barred, page 28



Checkpoint Charlie being hoisted away in Berlin yesterday as foreign ministers and dignitaries look on

Charlie comes in from the cold

From ANNE MELVOY IN WEST BERLIN

CHECKPOINT Charlie, the Allied crossing point which became a potent symbol of cold war conflict and human tragedy, yesterday received an honourable discharge after a 29-year tour of duty, made superfluous by the triumph of democracy in East Germany.

The prefabricated hut guarded by the American, British and French military and bearing their three flags, was hoisted on a giant crane and swayed briefly before being taken amid cheers and applause to a new home in a Berlin museum.

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Troops surprise, page 8

Kremlin takes missiles out of trouble spots

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Soviet Union is quietly withdrawing nuclear weapons from the secessionist Baltic republics, volatile southern republics and some Eastern European nations, according to US and Nato officials and independent experts.

The moves are being made because of fears that the weapons might be stolen or seized as unrest, disaffection and political instability in those regions escalate. They are being relocated in parts of the Russian republic that are close to central control and considered relatively secure. Security around nuclear warheads which have not been withdrawn has reportedly been tightened greatly.

There are believed to be about 33,000 nuclear warheads at hundreds of sites across the Soviet Union. The relocation is of shorter-range tactical weaponry and nuclear artillery rather than long-range strategic missiles, but it nevertheless illustrates the extent of the Kremlin's concern about domestic problems.

A Nato source in Brussels said: "They are worried that these weapons might fall into the wrong hands and they want to be very sure it doesn't happen." Another said: "It seems to us that these precautions are very sensible. There's a lot of worry here about the possibility of the Soviet Union simply collapsing. In that chaos, there would be nuclear weapons around, and that's a pretty frightening thought."

A senior Washington official told the Wall Street Journal: "I don't regard it as an act of desperation. I regard it as an act of extraordinary caution."

Stephen Meyer, a professor recently returned from Moscow who is an expert on the Soviet military, said: "What you are seeing is prudence. You wouldn't want the Azerbaijanis taking one of these (nuclear weapons) and turning it over to the Iranians. That's what they worry about."

The bitter ethnic strife between Azerbaijanis and Armenians near the Caspian Sea city of Baku in January appears to have concentrated minds in the Kremlin.

Moscow sent elite Soviet troops to intervene. William Perry, a former US undersecretary of defence, was simultaneously meeting Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, the former Soviet chief of staff, in Moscow. "I was aware they had some very important nuclear storage sites outside Baku," Mr Perry said. "I asked him whether they were putting extra troops around there. He said they were."

The demands since for independence by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia have stirred powerful resentment of the Soviet military presence in those republics, where there are a number of nuclear installations, and there is similar ill-feeling in many of the newly democratised nations of Eastern Europe.

Fuelled by black-market demand, there has also been a sharp upsurge in thefts of military equipment. Crime within the military is said to have risen by 14.5 per cent in the

past year. In Armenia, there have been reports of an attempt to steal 21 tanks, of an attack by 40 armed men on an air force base, and of ambushes of military units. Professor Meyer said: "The political landscape has altered so dramatically that now they have to think about what a mob of 5,000 to 10,000 people could do."

Experts believe that it would be extremely hard for a stolen nuclear weapon to be launched or detonated. They are reportedly protected by coded locks, and warheads and missiles are not always stored together. However, the weapons could be sold to nations such as Iran or Iraq, or used as bargaining chips.

The nuclear dangers implicit in the downfall of communism have already occurred to the Senate and House armed service committees. Timothy Wirth, a member of the Senate armed services committee, said: "The irony here is that we are in a day and age when the threat of nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of an inadvertent release or an accidental war increases."

Gooch and Smith keep England hopes alive

GRAHAM GOOCH and Robin Smith were the mainstays of England's batting against New Zealand in the second Test at Lords yesterday, but the search for successful new blood in the middle order goes on. Although Alex Stewart, of Surrey, made his maiden Test 50, neither he nor Neil Fairbrother, of Lancashire, who was out for two, were in convincing form.

Gooch, the captain, had the top score with an impressive 85 before he was caught and bowled by Bracewell, and Smith scored 64. Lamb deliv-

ered perhaps the brightest innings of the day, a hard-hit 34 runs off just 29 balls. At close of play, England were 329 for eight wickets.

As the English World Cup supporters began leaving Sardinia yesterday, the head of the carabinieri said the troublemakers had been "educated" by their experiences on the Mediterranean island (John Goodbody writes).

Letters, page 13
Test report, pages 29-30
World Cup, 29, 33
Graham Taylor, page 33

Iran quake toll may be 35,000

THE death toll in the Iranian earthquake may be as high as 35,000, according to a government estimate released through the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva.

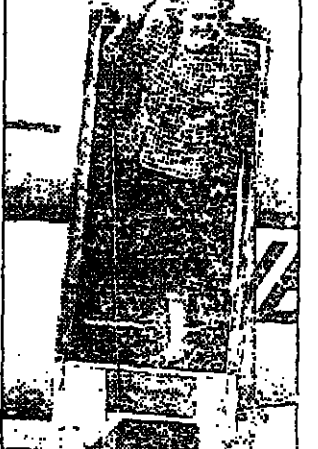
Aircraft and helicopters carried 20,000 of the critically injured to towns outside the devastated region to relieve overcrowded or damaged hospitals. The fate of hundreds of outlying villages remained unknown. Survivors dug with bare hands and shovels for trapped relatives.

Iran sowed confusion in the ranks of international aid organisations by saying that it would bar foreign aid workers, sniffer dogs and blood products from the disaster zone.

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Leading article, page 13
Aid workers barred, page 28

Good housekeeping on Thatcher's away-days

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR



Mrs Thatcher: £4.3 million foreign travel bill

CONSERVATIVES yesterday rejected Labour complaints about the £4.3 million bill for Mrs Thatcher's overseas visits since she came to power in 1979, saying that she travels more frugally than virtually any other world leader.

The cost was revealed in a parliamentary answer to Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, who complained that the Prime Minister had spent an increasing amount of time abroad since the early 1980s. He said that the British taxpayer was not getting value for money.

In Mrs Thatcher's first year in power, 1979-80, she and the officials accompanying her spent £151,864 on foreign travel. By 1981-82 the cost had risen to £556,000, but after that it declined. In 1988-89 it shot up suddenly

to £637,097, but last year it back to £387,040.

A Times analysis of Mrs Thatcher's travel shows that her visit to Dublin this weekend for the latest Common market summit will be her 169th trip since 1979. In the eleven years she has visited 54 different countries. While some of these trips are her own choice in response to invitations from many countries, the bulk of the travel is dictated by the need to attend various summits and to keep in touch with EC partners. Funerals of other world leaders would also count as a compulsory item.

Her record takes in no fewer than 31 previous European Councils (the EC summits) along with six Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings (CHOGMs) and 10 summits of the G7 group of the seven leading industrialized nations (along with Britain this includes Germany, France,

Japan, Italy, Canada and the United States.)

By comparison, President Bush, who has visited 16 foreign countries and 36 states in 14 months, customarily uses four planes. There is a back-up plane in case Air Force One develops problems, another plane carrying his bulletproof limousine and a fourth plane to transport his personal helicopters.

Mrs Thatcher's travels are less than restful for her or for those who accompany her. On one trip to the Far East she made 11 speeches, having stopped on the way for coffee with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and for dinner with Rajiv Gandhi in India. Just before Christmas, 1984, her 26,000-mile trip to Peking, Hong Kong, Guam, Honolulu and Washington took just six days.

Her lack of interest in cultural sightseeing is coupled with a seemingly

NEW TO THE TIMES

Saturday Review

Summer of the Lears



Richard Briers (above), Brian Cox and John Wood are all cast as King Lear in productions this summer. Benedict Nightingale considers their chances of success

First 100 miles into France



A comprehensive guide to the best places to eat, to stay and to shop for anyone passing through northern France on their way to a summer holiday

WEEKEND LIVING



Home for people and parties
Michael and Anne Heseltine (above) achieved a long-held ambition when they bought a large house in Oxfordshire. Victoria McKee finds out why they are happiest out of town: Page 19

New players on the polo field

The sport of millionaires and Indian army officers is now being played by businessmen and even schools. Rupert Morris reports: Page 17

SPORT



A new force in tennis
Monica Seles is, at 16, the youngest winner of the French Open. Now she seeks the women's title at Wimbledon starting on Monday. Andrew Longmore examines her remarkable rise: Page 31

South American shoot-out

David Miller considers the World Cup meetings of Brazil with Argentina and The Netherlands with West Germany: Page 29

WEEKEND MONEY

Timeshare put to the test

The government is set to clamp down on timeshare sharks amid complaints about sales techniques. But the news may be of little comfort to holidaymakers in Europe this summer. Weekend Money investigates: Page 56

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Portillo rules out 'throwing money' to ease poll tax

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL Portillo, the local government minister, yesterday dampened speculation of a huge injection of funds to reduce community charge bills next year. He said that such a move would jeopardise Britain's economic recovery.

In a rare public speech on the poll tax since he took office three months ago, Mr Portillo described the basics of the charge as very sound but admitted that there were anomalies and administrative problems to be looked at.

With the ministerial review of the poll tax due to report next month, he sought to lower expectations, stating that the aim was to make the new system better and to build on its principles rather than to undermine them.

Speaking at the 60th Conservative women's conference in London, he said: "In dealing with this problem, if there is one, Chris Patten (the environment secretary) and I are not going to do anything that would make our economic recovery more difficult. In any case, I do not believe that throwing money at the community charge would be the answer at all."

He blamed certain local authorities which had increased income this year of 16 per cent on top of a large increase for the previous year. "The basics of the community charge are very sound and the

community charge ... will bring accountability.

"But I make no apology for having proposed that some local authorities should be capped: those local authorities who in the turmoil of the change from one system to another calculated they could pile on the charges. We cannot stand by in the face of excessive spending by these authorities."

Mr Portillo was given a warm reception at his debut before the Tory women, who supported the principle of the poll tax with calls to ministers to iron out "minor hiccups".

Miss Nicola Griffiths, head girl of Surbiton High School, echoed other speakers by supporting the philosophies behind the community charge but called for teething problems to be sorted out.

A council which ended up £2,500 out of pocket despite winning court orders against 1,000 community charge defaulters last night blamed "inconsistencies and errors" in government poll tax guidelines for the loss (Douglas Broom writes).

Magistrates in South Shields, Tyne-side, refused to award costs against the non-payers because poll tax notices issued by Labour-controlled South Tyneside council did not contain a warning that those who failed to pay would have to pay legal costs if the

case went against them. Earlier this month the council was forced to postpone legal action against 2,000 other people after the courts had ruled that insufficient time had been allowed between the issue of the reminders and the summonses.

Peter Haigh, South Tyneside finance director, said that the council had followed guidance issued by the environment department. He blamed "inconsistencies and errors" in the guidelines for the legal problems.

Last night the environment department denied that it was responsible for the confusion. Guidance on poll tax enforcement was issued in the form of "practice notes" which were agreed with the local authority associations.

The Court of Appeal in London, which is hearing a challenge by 19 Labour councils against the decision to "cap" their community charge levels, was urged yesterday by Anthony Newman, QC, for Derbyshire county council, to declare that ministers had acted unconstitutionally by imposing limits on spending.

The councils, which lost a similar case in the High Court last week, argue that Mr Patten abused his powers by deciding arbitrarily what constituted excessive spending. The hearing continues on Monday.



Fire devastates country home of one of world's richest men

Flames leaping through the roof of a blaze destroyed nearly half of a £12 million country mansion yesterday. Firemen rescued art treasures and antiques from the devastating fire at the late 18th century Dropmore House, near Burnham, Buckinghamshire (Michael Horsnell writes). The blaze at the home of Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, a former ambassador to Britain of the United Arab Emirates, whose fortune has been estimated at over £2 billion, comes just five months after an unsolved robbery there, when an armed gang netted a fortune in gold and art treasures. Last night police

were guarding the house as a fire investigation team sifted the ruins for evidence of arson at the 50-room mansion. More than 100 firemen tackled the blaze, which started in the east wing and spread to the main part of the building, and two officers were treated for neck, head and leg injuries. The owner is believed to be in Dubai. The fire is the third disaster in four years for Mr al-Tajir, who was a familiar

figure in London diplomatic circles. In 1986 he paid a £2 million ransom for the safe recovery of his brother, Sadiq, who was kidnapped at gunpoint from his home in Knightsbridge, London. Then, on January 24 this year, an armed gang blasted their way into a strongroom after seizing the caretaker and his wife and holding them for 10 hours. Police, who failed to arrest anyone, believe the robbers

may have been hoping to steal a silver collection which was at Christie's, London, at the time. They nevertheless escaped with treasures estimated to be worth £5 million. Yesterday's loss is expected to be worth several million pounds. Agents for the house were planning to begin an inventory to establish what had been destroyed. The fire, which took more than four hours to control, brought down half of

the roof and severely damaged 30 per cent of the upper floors. Mr al-Tajir has 30 homes around the world, including five in Britain. During his diplomatic career in London in the 1970s he was a source of public fascination and is said to be one of the world's richest men. "One billion, two billion, I am worth much more than that," he was quoted as saying in 1975. "On this telephone I can get any amount of money I want."

Simon Elliott, a forester working on the 195-acre estate, said he tried to get into the house with the caretaker, Bill Wallworth, shortly after the fire was discovered.

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HALIFAX

Financier gambled away £1.6m of pensioners' money

A FINANCIER was jailed for six years last night for using the life savings of scores of pensioners to fund a £1.6 million gambling spree.

Martyn Foster tried to blame the Black Monday stock market crash for the loss of 150 small investors' nesteggs, but Bristol Crown Court was told he had lost the money at roulette.

Foster, formerly of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, admitted 12 specimen fraud charges relating to the loss of £960,000 of his clients' investment funds. Malcolm Cottrell, for the prosecution, said: "Foster is a glib predator. He was preying not on companies, not on the wealthy but on ordinary people with modest capital derived from redundancy or early retirement payments. These people wanted their money invested for a secure future and old age. Foster lost the lot."

Mr Cottrell told how Foster set up his own company, based in Clifton, Bristol, in 1986, and began investing clients' money with insurance companies. The clients believed he was investing their cash on the stock market, but he was using a system of false statements and paperwork and forged signatures to steal

their investments to finance his addiction to casinos.

In August 1987, suspicious investors tipped off the police in August 1987 and fraud squad detectives began to investigate. Foster jumped police bail as investigators discovered his company was bankrupt with debts of more than £2 million. He was recaptured in January 1988, gambling at the International Sporting Club, London.

At first he told police he had lost his clients' funds in the Black Monday stock market crash of October 1987, but finally told them: "It's all gone. I've gambled it all away. Tell them all I'm very sorry."

Belfast appeal delayed

THE possibility of criminal charges against Surrey police is delaying a murder appeal by one of the Guilford Four, the Northern Ireland High Court was told yesterday.

Paul Hill, who was released with the other three, is appealing against a murder conviction in Belfast in 1975. When his lawyers applied yesterday for a second adjournment the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Brian Hutton, said it was regrettable that the preparation of the appeal had not been advanced since it was before the court last February.

Mr Barry Macdonald, barrister, explained that the Somerset and Avon police investigation into the conduct of the Surrey police in relation to the Guilford and Woolwich bombings was still going on.

Police appeal

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the bombing of RAF Stanmore Park, north-west London, on Thursday renewed their appeal yesterday to trace a grey Ford Fiesta car seen parked less than half a mile from the base. Part of the registration number was either A297 or A792.

Boy remanded

A teenager, accused of murdering Simon Martin, aged 14, was remanded in custody until next Thursday by Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, magistrates yesterday. The boy's body was found in a derelict house more than a week after he went missing from home.

TV man's death

Pat Doody, a Border Television presenter who was found dead in a fume-filled car at his home in Wetheral, Cumbria, had a string of loans outstanding and his house was re-mortgaged twice, his wife Gillian told an inquest in Carlisle yesterday. An open verdict was recorded.

CORRECTION

Lord Home of The Hirsel entered the Commons in 1931 as Lord Dunslass not as Sir Alec Douglas-Home as reported in a picture caption yesterday.

*INTEREST WILL ONLY BE PAYABLE GROSS IF GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET ARE ENACTED AND SUBJECT TO THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATION FROM HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS. IF THE PROPOSALS ARE NOT ENACTED OR THE ACCOUNT IS CLOSED PRIOR TO 31 APRIL 1991 THEN INTEREST WILL BE PAID AT A NET RATE. THE BASIC RATE TAX LIABILITY ON WHICH WILL BE DISCHARGED AND WHICH MAY NOT BE RECLAIMED. A COPY OF THE FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS IS AVAILABLE FROM ANY BRANCH OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE, HX1 1NG. BY OPENING A GROSS INTEREST XTRA ACCOUNT YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE SOCIETY'S RULES. A COPY OF THE SOCIETY'S RULES IS AVAILABLE AT ANY BRANCH. ALL INTEREST RATES ARE VARIABLE, WITH RATES OF OVER £500 IN CASH OR £10,000 BY CHEQUE MAY REQUIRE SECURITY CLEARANCE AND PRODUCTION OF IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO ARRANGEMENTS. FOR THE SAME REASON CHECKS WITHDRAWN AT ANY BRANCH MUST BE PAID BY CASH OR CHEQUE. HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY.

هكذا بن الراميل

Governors win plea over opt-out school site

By TOM GILES

A LABOUR council's scheme to sell the site of a comprehensive school to a private company after parents had called for a ballot on opting-out was invalid because school governors were not consulted, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Lord Justice Mustill, sitting with Mr Justice Otton, ruled that Tameside metropolitan borough council had failed to hold talks over the educational implications of selling off the site of Audenshaw High School in Manchester in 1988.

He added: "In its haste to secure the interests of its ratepayers, the council failed to think about the boys. It should have done so and should have consulted the governors." Instead, it had gone about selling the school site in a "hasty, furtive and downright rude way".

The governors of Audenshaw, backed by the Educational Assets Board, had challenged the council's actions in setting up a private company to buy the freehold. They originally claimed the scheme was intended to frustrate their plans to opt out of the authority's control under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, but later dropped that part of their case.

Although the consequences of yesterday's ruling will be determined at a later hearing, Terry Hall, chairman of the governors, said last night the judgment represented a moral victory. "We have won this

round but there is another one to come. We are unable to say what relief we are going to get but it is good news so far. The best we can hope for is for the freehold to revert to us."

However, Lord Justice Mustill rejected the governors' argument that the council had acted outside its powers. The scheme, taken by Tameside, though unorthodox, formed part of the authority's function in managing its property to the best advantage of its ratepayers. The council had not, in his judgment, frustrated the aims of the Education Reform Act.

The school's decision to opt out took effect last September, after Kenneth Baker, the then education secretary, granted permission in February. Parents at the school, with 600 boys, had voted nine to one for opting out of local authority control in December 1988. Months before the vote, Tameside had set up a company called Evermodern to acquire the freeholds of all secondary schools, to be leased back at the market rent. However, Audenshaw has not yet paid any rent for its Hazel Street site, amounting to £80,500 a year.

The Department of Education has said it would penalise the council's actions by deducting a sum equal to the value of the rent from its central grants. It declined to comment on yesterday's ruling.

Tameside, which argued that it had acted lawfully in an attempt to protect ratepayers' assets, said the court decision was disappointing. "We feel vindicated as it demonstrates that the authority acted reasonably and with no improper motive."

Andrew Turner, director of Choice in Education, an independent body set up to advise schools on opting out, said: "This appears to be a significant legal decision because councils now know they must consult governors before taking this action. Tameside made an honest mistake, but if councils try to do this in the future, they will not be able to come up with the same excuse."



THE march-past outside St Paul's Cathedral yesterday at which the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, took the salute of more than 3,500 airborne soldiers whose service spanned 50 years. They marched with bayonets fixed and drums beating through the City of London after a service at the cathedral to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Airborne Forces. Men of the Parachute Regiment and contingents of veterans who had fought at Arnhem, on the Normandy beaches and in the Falklands, and served in Ulster, paraded. With the regiment a prime target for the IRA, and the presence of Tom King, the defence secretary, there was intense security round the cathedral. Police marksman were on every rooftop. At the service were Sara Jones, whose husband, Lieutenant-Colonel H Jones won a posthumous VC as commanding officer of the regiment's 2 Para in the Falklands, and the yachtsman Chay Blyth, who served with 3 Para.

Two sent to jail after raid on dog fight

By KERRY GILL

THREE men were found guilty yesterday of the "vile and degrading" pursuit of dog fighting on a Scottish farm. One was jailed for six months after the sheriff described it as a "frightful, horrid business."

At Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, Sheriff William Christie said that people who watched dog fighting were beneath contempt. He told Barry Raj, aged 35, of Sunderland, Frank McPhee, aged 41, of Glasgow, and Shaun Wood aged 28, of Mansfield, he took a very serious view of the case.

"It is a vile way to spend your time, watching two animals tearing themselves apart in a bloodbath. People who take part are below contempt," he said.

The three were found guilty of offences relating to dog fighting and gambling at Burnside Farm, Bonnybank, Kennoway, Fife, on May 20. Woods was jailed for six months, McPhee for four months and Raj remained in custody to July 13 for reports.

The court was told by Michael Butcher, an investigator for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who has spent seven years examining dog fighting, that more than £1,000 found in the dog ring at the farm would have been the wages between the two owners.

About 140 police officers who surrounded the farm after a tip-off saw two dogs fighting in a bloodstained pit, the court was told. They arrested more than 30 men and almost £5,000 was found near the pit or on the detained men.

Detective Inspector John Nicholson said: "I... saw a great number of people. Four or five civilians were in a ring with two dogs that were in the process of fighting."

Superintendent Tom McCaig said he saw a pit area with bloodstained walls and two dogs, one of them an American pit bull terrier.

Witnesses also told of bloodstained dogs with head, leg, neck and ear injuries.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"My first marriage lasted ten years until the end of 1942, when I returned from the war an ill and broken man," Lord Hailsham writes in his forthcoming autobiography, serialised in tomorrow's Sunday Times. "I had no thought but to give Natalie, my wife, a pleasant surprise... I put the key in the lock... She was not alone..."

Besides Hailsham's frank and absorbing memories of his often tragic life, *The Sunday Times* also contains a special pull-out guide to Wimbledon: the full draw for the men's and women's singles, who are the favourites and who are the dark horses, plus an in-depth and revealing examination of Ivan Lendl, the world's No 1 tennis star.

General sees risk in army cuts

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Sir Martin Farndale, former commander-in-chief of the British Army of the Rhine, this week spoke of the dangers of excessive army cuts after confirmation from defence ministers that troops would be reduced and regiments disbanded under the "options for change" review.

Sir Martin, who retired as BAOR chief in January 1988, said there appeared to be a common view that since the warning time for an attack from the Soviet Union had increased dramatically, Britain could rely more on the reserves (the Territorial Army).

He admitted that a surprise attack was unlikely but the warning time could change. "If we, in the meantime, have redesigned our army so that it cannot cope with a short-warning attack, we will be putting our whole security at risk."

The general referred to the rundown of troops in 1984 after the battle of Toulouise and when Napoleon was safely locked up on the island of Elba. Yet within a year Britain fought "the bloodiest of battles at Waterloo".

"If you cut your army, what you have left must be very professional. You cannot rely on reserve forces. The training they have is simply not the same as the regular army," Sir Martin said. Any planned cuts should be implemented in stages.

Sir Martin also spoke strongly in favour of the regimental system, which he described as "sacred" to the army. The regimental system was a vital part of building confidence and morale because of the loyalty it inspired. The government has confirmed it intends to maintain the regimental system.

Women priests in Ulster pose church dilemma

By RUTH GLEDHILL

TWO women will tomorrow become the first in Europe to be ordained priest in the Anglican communion.

Kathleen Young, a widow trained as a physiotherapist, and Irene Templeton, aged 49, trained at Bristol, and worked in Leicester and Crawley before moving back to Northern Ireland, where she is an auxiliary deacon at St Hilda's parish church at Kilmore, Dunmurry. Mrs Young, aged 50, was ordained two years ago and is an apprentice curate at St Nicholas parish church at Carrickfergus, co Antrim.

A further four women are expected to be ordained priest in Northern Ireland soon. Four more are at theological college in Dublin, and three could enter college this year. The Church of Ireland is the seventh of 27 Anglican provinces worldwide to ordain women to the priesthood. Two provinces have women bishops.

The ordination of women has taken legal advice. Margaret Orr Deas, executive secretary, said: "We have been told that the same restrictions about needing permission to officiate do not apply. It will be an interesting point if anyone invites a woman priest from Northern Ireland to officiate in England."

The case is unlikely to be tested soon because neither woman wants to become embroiled in controversy. After the ordination, they will return to their parishes, where they will probably remain curates for at least a year.

The Church of Ireland is keen to play down what it feels could become a focus for protests. The Most Rev Robert Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and chairman of the commission on communion and women in the episcopate, has said several times that great care must be given to those who still cannot accept the ordination of women. The commission's guidelines advise women priests and bishops.

Treasures of print are saved for nation

By JOHN SHAW

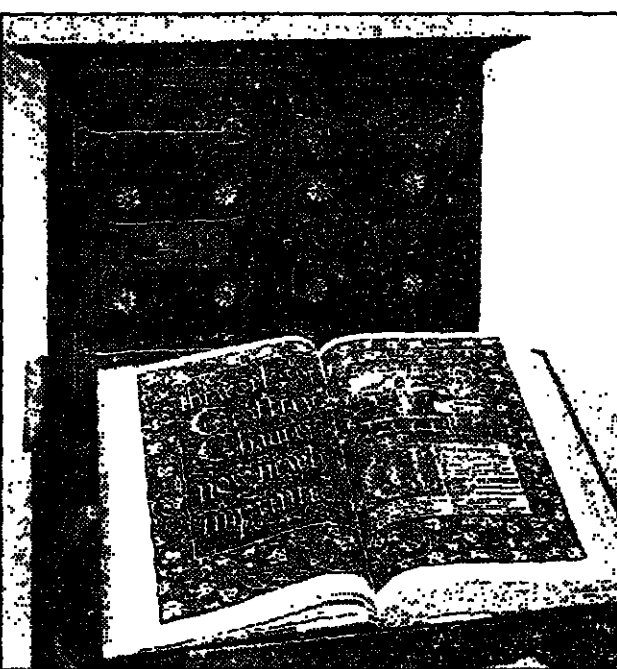
AFTER 17 months of secret negotiation, a unique library belonging to a founder of the Arts and Crafts Movement has been saved from possibly going abroad.

The books and manuscripts belonging to Sir Emery Walker (1851-1933), the engraver and printer who helped to found the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society in 1888, has been bought for the nation for £450,000. The money has been raised from a variety of sources, including the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which has donated £250,000.

The library will now be displayed at the museum at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, which possesses the finest collection of arts and crafts material in Britain. The local authority's arts development fund contributed £100,000. The private treaty sale from a source close to the Walker family was negotiated through the Museums and Galleries Commission.

Mr George Breeze, director of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums, said yesterday: "This is a marvellous collection, but there was a fear that it would be sold at auction and broken up. That would have been a tragedy. The owner was very keen that the library should remain as an entity, and this was a major factor in its staying here."

Sir Emery, who helped Wil-



The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer, by the Kelmscott Press, with the Kelmscott cabinet made to house it

liam Morris to establish the Kelmscott Press at Hammersmith, west London, in 1890, has been described as "the prime mover in the revival of fine printing in England".

His library contains manuscripts and early printed books that inspired his and Morris's publishing style. It also contains work from the Kelmscott Press and the Doves Press.

Sir Emery worked closely with T J Cobden-Sanderson, who set up the Doves Press. Sir Emery designed some of the Doves types, often regarded as among the finest ever cut. The only surviving examples are in the library going to Cheltenham.

Mr Breeze said: "All the other founts were thrown into the Thames. The only bit left is just enough for a Christmas card. But what breathed life into his library was the way Walker used his books as a kind of filing system, inserting into the appropriate volumes photographs, press cuttings and letters from Morris and other leading figures, like Philip Webb, one of the founders of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings."

"The libraries of Walker's friends have now been dispersed, and this survival is highly fortunate. It provides a unique window into a great period of English printing and publishing and one of the few

collection have been protected and there were fears that it might go to the United States or Japan. Mr Breeze praised the "invaluable" help of Miss Heather Wilson, a taxation expert at the commission, who has been involved in many complex private treaty sales to British museums.

Miss Wilson said: "I am delighted to have been able to help them acquire such an important collection."

Panned musical hits back at the critics

By RAY CLANCY

THE legendary power of theatre critics to determine the future of a show by the turn of a phrase was challenged yesterday from the unlikelyst of sources.

Bernadette, the cut-price "people's musical", has hit back at savage reports in the newspapers by disclosing that a straw poll of the first-night audience showed 90 per cent thought the musical was "excellent" or "good".

Willie Foné, a former film studio chauffeur, mortgaged his £350,000 house to raise money for the show about the French peasant girl whose vision of the Virgin Mary gave Lourdes its reputation as a healing shrine.

He and James Murray, a former television critic, said that while the critics claimed the show at the Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London, would need a miracle to succeed, the audience loved every minute. A poll of 305 people found 70 per cent thought the show was excellent, 20 per cent thought it was good, 3 per cent that it was average and 5 per cent said it was below average.

"We are the people's musical and the

people have shown they like the show," said Mr Murray, who was television editor and critic of the *Daily Express* for ten years. He turned on the critics who were widely held to be responsible for closures after only five weeks of *King*, a £3.5 million musical based on the life of Martin Luther King, and *Someone Like You*, conceived and co-written by Petula Clark.

Mr Murray accused the critics of "shabby journalism and unprofessionalism" and singled out Jack Tinker of the *Daily Mail*, claiming his review was inaccurate. Mr Tinker said the score "only occasionally rises to the average Norwegian entry in the Eurovision Song Contest" and described the start as "a recital of the Lord's Prayer and a burst of 'Ave Maria' for good measure."

Mr Murray said Mr Tinker must have been "hearing voices" as the Lord's Prayer is not recited. He then rounded on Maureen Paton of the *Express* who said she dreaded to think what the Papal Pro-Nuncio, who attended the preview night, must have thought. "She ought to

have noticed what he thought as she was sitting only a few feet away from him when he led a five-minute standing ovation and remarked how wonderful the musical was."

"The appalling writing and standard of criticism in London is wretched. Almost every review described the show as being riddled with clichés, yet they ended by saying it will need a miracle to save the musical. We don't need a miracle. We need bums on seats."

Mr Foné, the producer, said: "Obviously the closure of *King* and *Someone Like You* has been at the back of our minds and helped us to decide to go ahead with our own audience poll, but I was never worried by what the critics might say."

The Dominion now plans to splash comments from ordinary people on billboards outside the 2,000-seat theatre instead of the usual words from critics. These include "It is the most wonderful show I've seen since Phantom of the Opera" and "Something totally original, nothing ordinary about it, excellent".

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Clarke admits that community care reforms face delay

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday admitted that its community care reforms may have to be delayed for a year if local authorities are not ready to implement them.

Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, defiantly scotched speculation that his health service reforms would be delayed. He expressed "slight caution", however, on whether the community care reforms would meet the same timetable of April 1 next year.

He said it was still the government's intention to go ahead with the reforms which give local councils responsibility for the social care of the elderly, mentally ill, and mentally handicapped.

Mr Clarke said that it did, however, require constant judgement about whether the government was ready to go into the new system next year, because it involved ending the present arrangements whereby social security was paid for

nursing home care through income support. Local councils would also have to draw up complicated assessment procedures and service contracts, and new arrangements with health authorities.

Mr Clarke conceded that would have to be done at the same time as councils were coping with a variety of other changes, including the poll tax.

"Local authorities are embarking on the implementation of the Children's Act, the new national curriculum, and planning the policy of care in the community," Mr Clarke said. "I get mixed messages about how ready local authorities are to deliver this, and the consequences for their residents and services if we maintain this pace."

He said he had no reason to think local authorities wished to postpone the changes at the moment, but not every aspect of the community health re-

forms was under his control. The health secretary's caution yesterday followed speculation this week that the prime minister was keen to delay implementing the National Health Service and community care reforms in case they proved politically damaging in the run-up to the next election.

Local councils are already claiming that the poll tax will result in severe cuts in social services and impede implementation of the new reforms. There is also mounting concern about the amount of money the government will allocate for the new programme.

Mr Clarke, however, told the joint conference of the National Association of Health Authorities and Society of Family Practitioner Committees in Scarborough, north Yorkshire, that the health service programme would go ahead on schedule. "Let me make it clear that the reforms are going to happen," he said.

In spite of those assurances, Mr Clarke emphasised there would be no significant change in the pattern of services from next April and any alterations would be carefully planned. He expected GPs to continue to refer the same number of patients to the same hospitals.

From next April he would expect to see explicit quality standards in all contracts drawn up between health authorities and hospitals, specifying maximum in-patient and out-patient waiting times. The new structures would enable all health authorities to reduce their waiting lists, he said.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, yesterday accused the Mr Clarke of putting his political virility before the interests of the health service. "The public don't want his changes to the NHS, and NHS managers cannot get them to work. Even Mrs Thatcher is finding the speed of change is making her queasy."

Mr Cook said the government faced a big problem because the public persisted in rejecting the threat to the NHS. "Either they press ahead, in which case they will lose the election, or they drop their plans, in which case they must admit they were wrong."

NHS reforms, page 12



The Fat Controller checking the time yesterday as Thomas the Tank Engine arrives at Didcot, Oxfordshire, for his 45th birthday. Hundreds of boys and girls enjoyed themselves among a dozen full-sized engines with painted faces, and the party continues today and tomorrow

More freedom for NHS management

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE management team running the health service's £18 billion properties and estate is expected to become an semi-autonomous executive agency under plans to improve civil service efficiency.

A detailed plan to convert the health department's estate directorate into an agency with more freedom and clearer responsibilities was being prepared, Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, said in a written Commons answer yesterday. He said the move would enable it to respond more readily to the needs of the department, and the health service.

The directorate employs 127 staff, of whom 82 are architects, engineers and surveyors. Its £1 billion capital investment programme includes 520 schemes.

Under the government's "next steps" programme, launched in 1988, 31 agencies have been created and another 25 announced.

Secretaries, technicians and consultants have become shareholders in their own private company, set up in a hospital's pathology department. It offers services to industry and commerce as

well as its work for the health service (Craig Seton writes).

Almost 90 per cent of the 102 staff in the department at Kettering general hospital in Northamptonshire raised £22,000 to create Kettering Laboratory Services. While other health service pathology laboratories undertake private work, it is believed to be the first where employees have become shareholders.

The company has agreed to give 30 per cent of its gross turnover to the town's health authority. Staff will work extra hours to test specimens and samples submitted by health screening companies, the food industry and other commercial concerns.

Philip Blackburn, senior medical scientist and director of the company, said: "Work for the health service will always come first. I do not think there is a danger that the private side will take over. Should the company be successful, we will get dividends and staff will be paid for the extra time they work. It should boost pay levels and help to attract staff."

The company expects a £180,000 turnover in its second year of trading.

Plea for 'invisible homeless' as mental units close

By LIN JENKINS

THE plight of mentally ill people who end up living rough because of the policy of closing mental hospitals has largely been ignored by the government in the proposals to help the homeless, groups working with them claimed yesterday.

The criticism came as it was announced that the closure of the 600-bed Friern Hospital at Barnet, north London, could be brought forward by two years to 1991.

The National Schizophrenia Fellowship says the high visibility of the homeless young, who live in groups and choose to sleep in shop doorways in London's West End, has attracted attention, whereas the less conspicuous lives on the streets of those who are psychotic and prefer to be on their own are easier to ignore.

A further 38 mental hospitals are to close in the next five years releasing 12,500 people into community care, which often amounts to little more than sleeping rough. In the 10 years to 1984, 25,000

patients lost their hospital places and only 3,300 new residential places were created by local authorities and voluntary groups. The fellowship believes that the government has ignored the mentally ill on the streets as it contradicts its policy of closing mental hospitals.

Malcolm Weller, a psychiatrist and chairman of Concern, a group of professional people worried about mental health care services, said surveys among those living rough found that 68 per cent suffered from a psychotic condition.

"It is not clear whether this group is growing because no body keeps proper figures. We are very much troubled that a significant proportion of these people have been inmates of psychiatric hospitals," he said.

The most recent survey found that 58 per cent of those found living rough or occasionally using existing hostels had been in mental hospitals for a variety of conditions, 42 per cent were psychotic at the time of interview, of which 12 per cent had never been treated for their condition.

Only one in three received any state benefits and eight out of 10 had been in prison at some time, including one who had been sentenced to confinement at Broadmoor for attempted murder.

"They simply are not as visible as the homeless young. The ones you do see are probably the least ill, those who are more disturbed are isolated," Dr Weller said.

Jerry Westall, research and communications officer for the fellowship, said bringing forward the closure of Friern Hospital would further exacerbate the problem.

"If the government is going to tackle conspicuous destitution it has to realise that a certain proportion of those discharged from hospitals are going to end up on the streets. The provision to care for them in the community is simply not there," he said.

"Over 50,000 have been discharged already, those being discharged now and in the future are the more seriously ill and harder to place. They are people with multiple problems and much more likely to end up destitute on the streets. We have continually been pressing for hospitals not to close until other facilities have been put in place, but it simply has not happened."

"There are a few pilot projects which deal with tens when really it is a matter of thousands. The mentally ill are being discharged to live in places unfit for habitation."

Labour repeal of terror act 'would legalise the IRA'

By RICHARD FORD

THE Provisional IRA could become a lawful body with its supporters allowed to collect funds on British streets under a Labour government, the home secretary alleged yesterday.

David Waddington said Labour's pledge to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act would also allow people banned for having known terrorist links to return unchallenged to Britain.

The home secretary accused Labour, which had introduced the act, of failing to think through the need for the legislation or the consequences of repealing it.

Speaking a day after a bomb exploded at an RAF base at Stanmore, in northwest London, Mr Waddington told women at a Conservative party conference that the fact Labour planned to repeal the act showed that it was not prepared to face up to its responsibilities. "Has he (Roy Hattersley) thought for one moment that the consequences of the repeal of the legislation would be that the IRA would become a lawful body and people could actually collect funds for the IRA on the streets of London?" Mr Waddington asked.

One result of the legislation being repealed would be that a number of people either concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism who had been excluded from Great Britain would be able to return, he said.

Mr Hattersley, the Labour deputy leader and Opposition home affairs spokesman, accused the home secretary of reducing the serious issue of the fight against terrorism to the level of squalid party political abuse.

He said the act was a counter-productive measure that negated the concept of a United Kingdom. Under the act, individuals could be banished from the mainland to Northern Ireland, which was also party of the UK.

Mr Hattersley added: "This concept of banishment is obviously seen by the Irish people as a statement that it is all right for terrorists to operate in Ireland so long as they are kept away from England, Scotland and Wales."

"To suggest that IRA sympathisers would have an easier life under a Labour government is disgraceful, and the home secretary, now reduced to scraping around for a few extra votes, knows it."

Extradition bar linked to jailed Six

JUDGES in the Irish Republic may have blocked the extradition of IRA terrorists to Britain because of the widespread belief in their country that the Birmingham Six are innocent, campaigners for the six suggested yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Paul May said the republic's courts could not be immune to the feeling among its citizens that British justice was faulty, particularly in IRA trials.

Father Bobby Gilmore, chairman of the Birmingham Six Campaign, said the case was an irritant in Anglo-Irish relations that probably meant guilty men were not being brought to justice.

Campaigners for the six convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974 in which 21 people died will next week lobby officials at the international conference on human rights in Copenhagen. On Monday they will stage a mass demonstration in Dublin to coincide with the EC summit there.

Actor helps his village to buy back its green

Stewart Granger, the actor, is helping the fishing community of Polperro, Cornwall, his boyhood home, to buy back their village green for £150,000.

The green was lost to villagers in 1813 when it was sold for development, and now a property developer plans to build shops there. Yesterday a campaign was launched to raise the £110,000 required to buy the site and £40,000 to develop it and Mr Granger has agreed to become its patron.

Problem ship

The Royal Navy's latest submarine, HMS Upholder, commissioned a fortnight ago, returned to Barrow, Cumbria, yesterday after problems with the cooling system on the way to sea trials. She is the first of a new class of diesel electric submarines and had problems during earlier trials.

Fatal crash

Two men were killed and three people, including a child, injured, when two cars crashed head-on on a bridge over the M4 near Theale, Reading, Berkshire, yesterday.

Drugs swoop

West Midlands police arrested 15 people in a drugs swoop on the Plaza Cafe, Handsworth, Birmingham. They seized cannabis and cannabis resin with a street value of £50,000.

Midwife father

Simon Aslett, Lincolnshire's first male midwife, delivered his baby daughter at his home in Wolsey Way, Lincoln. The baby and his wife, Lynn, a nurse at Lincoln County Hospital, are "doing fine".

Railway death

A man was killed yesterday morning when he was hit by a Portsmouth to Waterloo train on the railway line at Fareham, Hants.

Name banned

Andrew Lloyd-Webber, the composer, won an extended ban in the High Court yesterday on a lavatory cleaning firm - Andrew Lloyd Webber's Lavatory Cleaning Services - using his name.

Miner killed

A accident inquiry was launched yesterday after a miner, aged 45, died in an accident three miles underground in Sillingfleet mine, North Yorkshire.

Inmates allege abuse

PRISONERS at Strangeways jail were "wound up" by some staff to provoke them, some have claimed in letters disclosed yesterday to the Woolf enquiry into the riot there.

David Latham, QC, counsel to the enquiry, said "significant numbers" of inmates had complained of problems with certain officers and of being treated in an "unprofessional" way, sworn at and abused.

Mr Latham was questioning Gordon Morrison, the senior governor in charge of the main prison wings, on the tenth day of the enquiry in Manchester into the riot. He asked whether Mr Morrison knew of allegations from prisoners that they were "wound up".

Mr Morrison replied: "I accept that could have happened, and almost certainly did occasionally."

Mr Morrison said if he had been told of specific warnings that a riot was to be started at the Sunday chapel service, he would have regarded precautions taken as "inadequate". The enquiry resumes on Monday.

Scottish writers threaten to down felt-tips

By KERRY GILL

HISTORY does not record whether Shakespeare downed his quill in an effort to prise more money out of Queen Elizabeth I before tendering his final draft of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, said to have been written at her request.

As the predominant English playwright of the age, having already enjoyed the patronage of the Lord Southampton and been a member of the Chamberlain's company of players, he was clearly in a better bargaining position than leading Scottish writers of today.

Yesterday, faced with the prospect of Scottish playwrights downing their felt tips in an attempt to up their commissions, the Federation of Scottish Theatres held an urgent meeting in Glasgow. Theatres, however, are not rich. Nor do they have the ultimate sanction of execution and, therefore, could be forced to reach an expensive compromise with the striking dramatists over the coming weeks.

About 30 Scottish playwrights have said they will not write any more works for federation members until they are given an increase in pay. The Scottish Society of Playwrights appears to be following the track of more traditional industrial disputes. John Clifford, a member of the society, said: "Playwriting is not economically viable. I regret this enormously, but we have no other option. We have conducted a survey of our members to find out how long it takes to write a play. It takes most of them between seven and nine months and we want them to come up with a living wage."

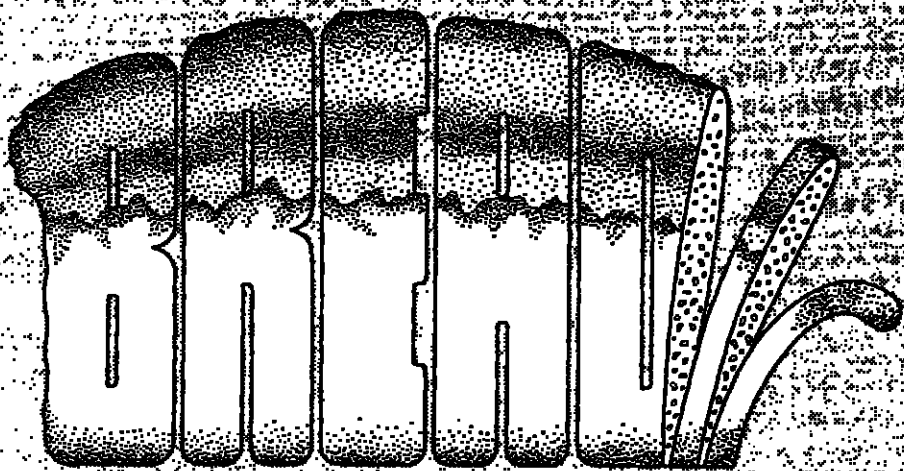
Even if their claim is successful, it would mean only about £150 for 37 weeks. Little wonder that some playwrights are even thinking of leaving the business. Members, including names such as John Byrne, Liz Lochhead and Hector MacMillan, say the Scottish Arts Council's commissioning fee for a play must be increased from £4,000 to £5,500 plus 10 per cent royalties. However, not

all commissioned plays get the fee. Deadlock has been reached with the writers refusing to produce any more commissioned plays for federation theatres.

Jo Beddoe, for the federation and general manager of one of the affected theatres, the 7:84 Theatre in Glasgow, said the council did not automatically give a fee for each commissioned play, and many had to be paid for by theatres themselves and, where appropriate, cash aid from local authorities.

"Every theatre is asked by the Arts Council to apply in January for commissioning funds for the following financial year. We might put in for four new plays, but the council might only decide to give a grant for one."

The dramatists will honour all agreements made, but unless a settlement is reached quickly, there could be a dearth of locally written plays for the 1991 Edinburgh Festival and Glasgow's Mayfest. There might also be reruns of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.



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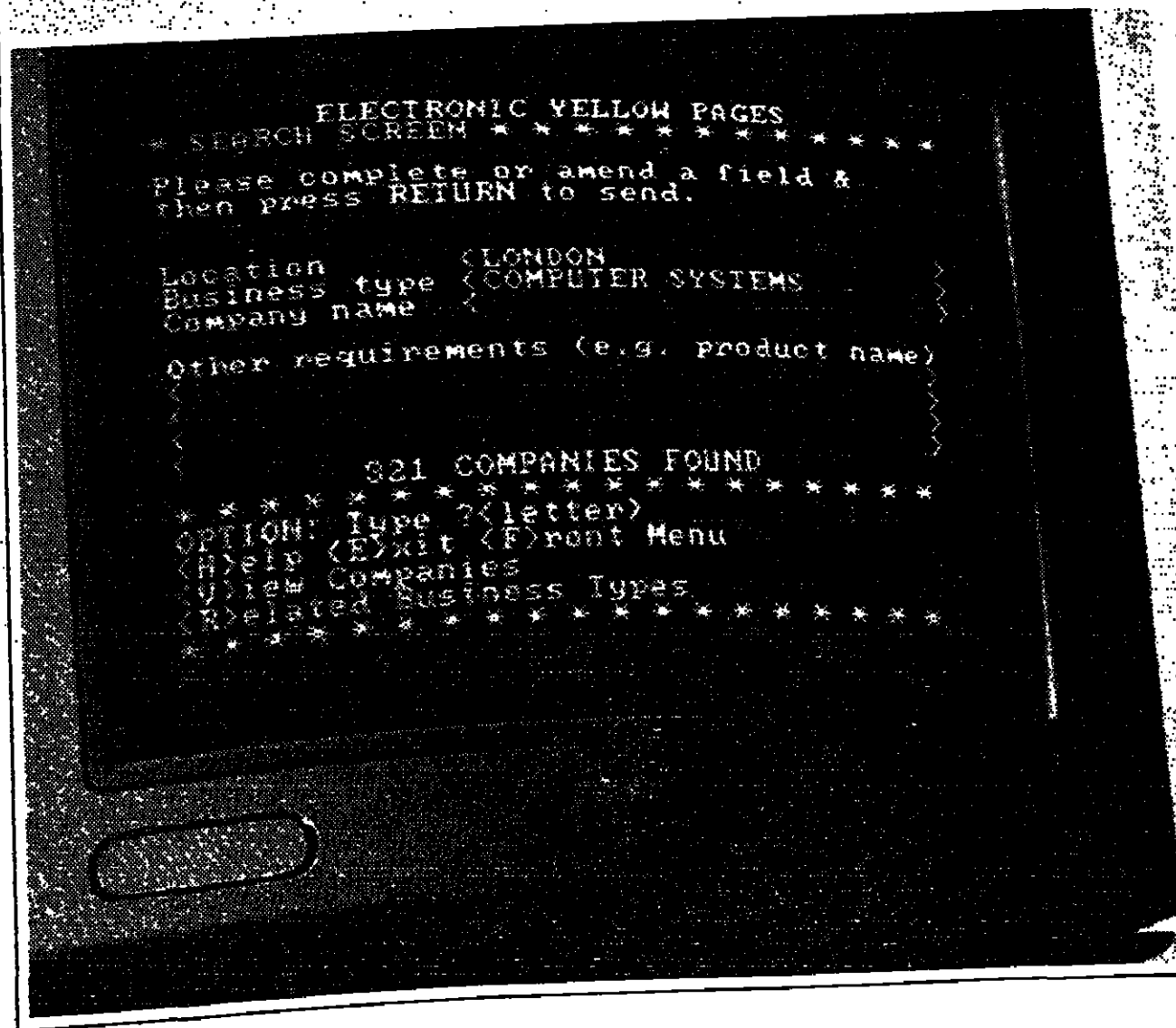
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Airline cuts fare by 20% to lure leisure travellers

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is to reduce fares between Britain and Scandinavia by more than 20 per cent in an effort to attract more passengers during the slack summer months.

Although business and full economy fares will remain the same, leisure passengers will be able to save up to £50 on the cost of a return flight to most Scandinavian cities between the middle of July and the end of September provided they stay one Saturday night at their destination.

The new fares are being used as a promotional gambit by BA, which plans to take advantage of the increasingly liberal air services agreement reached among European transport ministers in Luxembourg this week by filling aircraft which would normally fly half empty during the holiday season.

The fares, which will result in a return ticket to Copenhagen falling from £182 to £142 compared with £350 club class return, have been formally filed with the Civil Aviation Authority and go on immediate sale.

Although such special offers are certain to increase as Europe gradually removes the regulations governing air services within the Community, businessmen and full economy passengers are unlikely to see similar reductions. In general fares could rise, rather than fall.

Although the politicians may congratulate themselves on thrashing out a deal which somehow found unanimity among countries with widely

differing attitudes towards airline competition, the airlines have no doubt that the general level of fares will not, and can not, come down.

"It is economically impossible," Kees Veenstra, general manager of aeropolitical affairs in the Association of European Airlines, said. Geoffrey Lipman, of the International Federation of Airline Passenger Association, agreed. "Normal business and economy fares are not going to drop, although there is scope for some new innovative fares at the margin," he said.

The facts would seem to support their claims. Last year the 21 members of the association made a total profit of £660 million gross, or just £253 million after taking into account interest payments. Yet they bought an additional 96 new aircraft last year and have announced orders for another 252, each costing up to £85 million and having to be paid for out of profits.

The same governments clamouring for lower air fares through greater competition and liberalisation are ironically proposing measures calculated to increase, rather than reduce, airline costs. They are pressing forward with plans to introduce value-added tax on air fares which could be set at between 4 and 9 per cent depending on the outcome of negotiations. The cost of collecting the tax alone could add 1.3 per cent to the price of an average ticket.

If duty free is also abolished, the threatened "energy tax" is introduced and airlines are asked to pay for the improvements in air traffic control and airport capacity, then sharp increases in prices become almost inevitable.

Airlines have had to absorb huge increases in costs with the average airport charge in Europe up 21 per cent on last year, the Euro-control bill soaring by 28 per cent and charges levied by the CAA, largely for improvements to Britain's radar cover, up by 45 per cent.

It all may appear something of a sob story by the airlines, but British Airways, which is easily the most profitable within Europe, made just £3 million last year from European and domestic markets from a revenue on the routes of more than £1.8 billion.

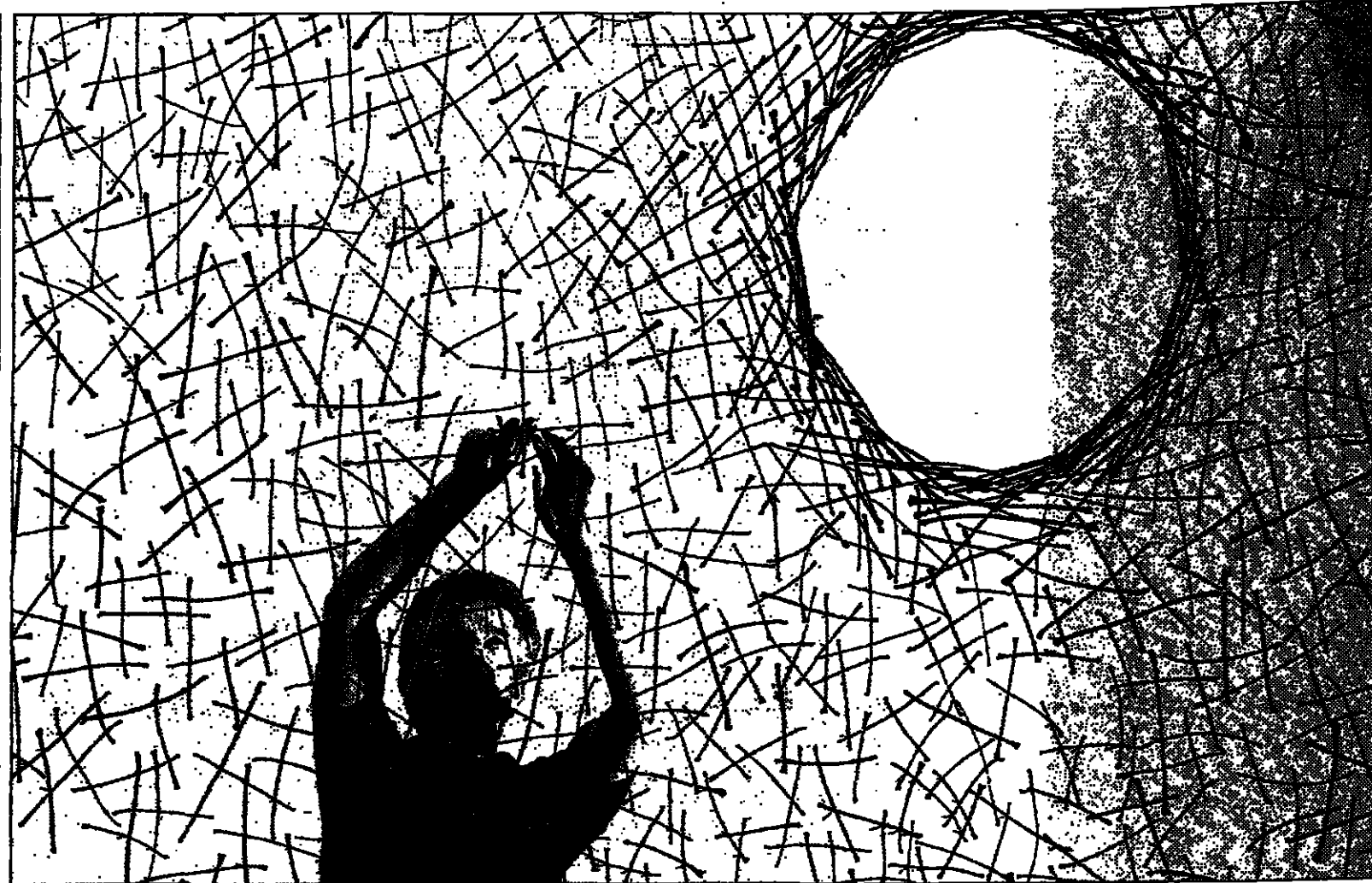
These are hardly the kind of figures which give credence to claims that air fares within Europe are "rip off". Indeed full economy fares within Britain are approximately 34 per cent lower per mile than similar US domestic fares over similar distances. Full economy fares from London to the EC capitals are on average 7 per cent lower than US domestic full economy fares over the same distance.

The problem is in identifying just what is meant by "an air fare". Already there are wide variations in the price of a ticket on any given aircraft as airlines battle to meet the demand from different sections of the market.

A businessman who wants full flexibility and a few trimmings will pay £240 return in club class to Paris, for example, compared with £84 paid by a leisure passenger who is prepared to book in advance.

At this week's talks Britain was seeking full "double approval" where only the intervention of both governments at either end of a particular route would have been required in the case of the British consul on the island and will remain incommunicado pending completion of the investigations.

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Andy Goldsworthy, an environmental sculptor, working on one of the exhibits for his forthcoming *Hand to Earth* show at Leeds central art gallery. The piece is made from birch and hawthorn spines, and forms a curtain about 15ft square. Each piece in the touring exhibition has to be put together from scratch wherever the show is set up. The exhibition opens in Leeds on July 22

London's homeless

Cash injection to clear 'cardboard cities'

By PETER DAVENPORT

MICHAEL Spicer, the housing minister, yesterday provided further details of the drive to rid London of its "cardboard cities" and tackle the problem of the thousands who sleep rough on the streets of the capital each night.

The Government is to make available £15 million immediately to be spent on a network of emergency shelters and the provision of more permanent accommodation which the government calls "move-on" housing. Among other measures outlined by the minister to the Institute of Housing conference at Harrogate, were moves to tackle what he called "the national scandal" of empty homes around the country, estimated at 100,000 council houses and almost 600,000 in the private sector.

Mr Spicer said the government intended to begin discussions with voluntary groups to establish a fund which would help people liv-

ing in hostels to overcome the hurdle of finding a deposit for rented accommodation. This would not involve cash payments to the homeless but provision of funds to housing associations to make accommodation available.

Mr Spicer was asked later whether the provision of the emergency shelters would mean that police would make wider use of their powers under vagrancy legislation to move the homeless from the streets. He said: "It is certainly the case that the public, particularly in London, is becoming very concerned about the abuse it often receives from people who have been sleeping out on the streets and it is true there are vagrancy laws whereby the police have powers to move people on."

"We would expect to be discussing with the police, once there is adequate alternative accommodation, their assistance in directing and pointing people towards alternative accommodation." Asked if the police would be expected to take further action against people who refused to move into the new network of emergency shelters, Mr Spicer said he expected them to use "the utmost tact" in dealing with the problem. Once the government had provided alternative accommodation there was no excuse for sleeping on the streets, he said.

He intended to set up, with the voluntary sector and certain, unnamed companies, a clearing system to give up-to-the-minute information about the availability of places in hostels.

There were 23,000 hostel places in London and more than 30,000 elsewhere in the country. There was "confusion and exaggeration", he said, about the numbers involved; last year 120,000 people claimed as statutory homeless were found some-

where to live with those in temporary accommodation numbering 41,000. Mr Spicer said the government believed that up to 3,000 people were sleeping rough in London with another 2,000 in other towns and cities. The new programme and funding will initially be aimed at the capital.

Mr Spicer said that the ultimate goal was not to make the single homeless dependent on any institutional help but to assist them back to a position where they could look after themselves.

The new emergency shelters will be created from a variety of sources; he gave church halls, empty commercial properties, council-owned buildings and temporarily unused hospitals as examples. "I do not want these to be magnets which encourage young people to leave home and come to the big cities, but I do want them to be sufficiently well run to encourage those who are sleeping on the streets to use them."

Resources will be made available to provide people with counselling and advice on securing jobs with the intention of ensuring that they move on as soon as possible to proper hostel places, private-sector rented accommodation or, exceptionally, into subsidised settled accommodation. The government hopes to have the programme in full operation by winter.

South Kesteven district council, in Mrs Thatcher's home town of Grantham, Lincolnshire, is going against government policy by deciding to build council houses for rent.

A spokesman said that demand had risen dramatically in recent times because of soaring interest rates and high prices. Mr Brian Gooch, head of the council's housing services, said they had not built a council house to rent since 1977 but that demand had risen between 10 and 20 per cent a year.

The delays in its arrival at Portsmouth began last month after damage to one of its water-impeller jets on the delivery run from its builder, International Catamarans, in Tasmania to New York. Then it was forced to remain in dry dock at Somerset, Massachusetts, for three weeks after vibration in the superstructure required strengthening work.

A spokesman for Hoverspeed said: "We always prefer to honour the time-table but when you have a prototype as this is you don't always know what will happen."

Yesterday the vessel was on course to break the transatlantic record and claim the Hales Trophy for the Blue Riband. She is due to pass Bishop's Rock, off the Isles of Scilly, the finishing point, before 8.30am today and to be met by a welcome reception at Portsmouth at 2.30 pm.

High-speed Channel catamaran plagued by setbacks

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SETBACKS are plaguing the launch of Hoverspeed's Great Britain as a high-speed cross-Channel passenger service despite its impressive performance in attempting to break the transatlantic crossing record.

The mixed fortunes of the £15.4 million Australian-built catamaran, which is designed to carry 450 passengers and 84 cars, were disclosed by Hoverspeed, part of the Sea Containers Group.

The world's largest catamaran, at 242ft, had been due to enter service on June 14 on the run between Portsmouth and Cherbourg until "teething problems" forced two postponements, first until June 28 and now until July 12.

Stringent safety tests still have to be carried out by government marine surveyors before the vessel, registered in the Bahamas, receives passenger certification. Seats have yet to be installed on board the craft, which is expected by its owners to halve the present five-hour crossing time between Portsmouth and Cherbourg.

Hoverspeed, which has another five large catamarans on order, is contacting about 2,000 passengers booked on the catamaran and offering them refunds or alternative travel arrangements.

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Transatlantic run, page 36

Australians arrested for murder

From CHRIS ELIOT IN ATHENS

TWO young Australians were arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of a British tourist and the wounding of his girlfriend in a knife attack on the Greek island of Rhodes on Thursday.

Police have named them as Andrea Vaccaro, aged 21, a construction worker of Italian origin, and Michael Tsingolis, 19, a Greek-born electrician, both from Sydney. The two men have been on holiday in Rhodes for three months.

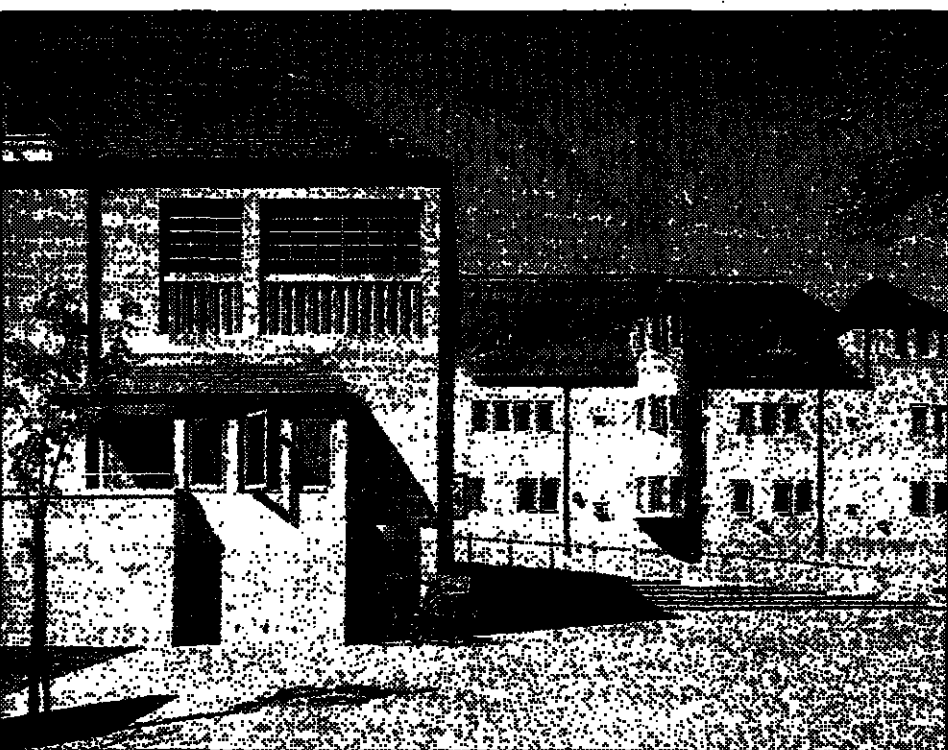
They were arrested after one of them allegedly stabbed William Paul Petrie, aged 26, to death and injured his companion, Sharon Anne Dunn, both of whom come from Manchester. Mr Petrie died in hospital of a severe wound to the heart.

The Australians were remanded in custody by a public prosecutor after being charged with premeditated murder, attempted robbery, causing dangerous bodily injuries and for the illegal possession and use of weapons.

Yannis Sikiotis, the Rhodes police commander, said Miss Dunn had been in a state of shock and could not tell which of the two men had stabbed Mr Petrie. "But we definitely did not find a knife on the Englishman," he said.

Mr Sikiotis said Miss Dunn would have to stay in Rhodes for another few days to "assist in the preliminary enquiry" by an investigating magistrate. "She is now recovering from a state of shock at a local pension in the care of the British consul on the island and will remain incommunicado pending completion of the investigations."

College addition is built to blend



THE Sir Geoffrey Arthur Building at Pembroke College, the second-largest University of Oxford college building to open since the second world war, which will be opened today by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the chancellor. The competition-winning design by Maguire & Co, of Thame, formerly Maguire & Murray, takes the form of a snaking perimeter develop-

ment enclosing two quads, with projecting bays and a broken roofline (Charles Knevitt writes). The £3 million building, of two and three storeys, has 96 study-bedrooms, and conference facilities and common rooms. It is built with cast masonry walls under a slate roof, to blend with surrounding colleges. The largest post-war college building in St Catherine's.

Fulbright returns to seat of learning

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

SENATOR William Fulbright often jokes that his name is better known in Britain than in the United States. Today, at least, his theory will certainly hold true when the founder of one of the world's best known education programmes visits his alma mater, Pembroke College, Oxford, to have a quadrangle named after him.

The former Democratic Congressman, now aged 85 and who grew up in a wealthy white enclave of America's deep south, lent his surname to the Fulbright scholarship programme in 1946. His experiences as a Rhodes Scholar in modern history at Pembroke in the late 1920s inspired him to launch the programme in a gesture toward thawing the Cold War.

Judging from the amount he learned about the British while at Oxford, he reasoned, government-funded student exchanges between the US and foreign countries were the key to improving understanding between all nations.

"I would never have been anywhere if it were not for Oxford," he mused recently to a group of visitors invited for coffee to his Washington home. To this day, he owes his spell in Oxford to his ability, rare among young American men even today, to play soccer.

Pembroke's decision to honour him by naming part of a building after him, he believes, is proof within his lifetime that sound sense can reap rewards and find recognition in a muddled world.

More than 180,000 students, around two thirds of them non-American, have taken part in the Fulbright programme at a total cost of about one-third of an aircraft carrier, he said, finding an opportunity to rail against American defence spending. His next step is to extend the programme to include more Soviet and Eastern European participants.

He supposes he became a pacifist while at Oxford, overwhelmed by a sudden realisation of his own ignorance. "Not a bad place," he says with a mischief-loving grin, looking forward to seeing his quadrangle. "It's got a lot of history."

Legal aid reform on class action delayed till April

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to the legal aid scheme to enable victims of disasters, defective products and other "group" litigants to bring class actions on legal aid have been delayed until April pending the Lord Chancellor's review on who should qualify.

The delay, which comes two years after the Lord Chancellor indicated he wanted changes, will cause dismay among consumer groups who have been campaigning for a change in the law to help mass disaster victims.

The Legal Aid Board said yesterday that after the consultation period which ended in September on its proposals for reform, it had submitted recommendations to the Lord Chancellor's Department.

The department said last night: "There were a few points that we had to go back to them about. The board is looking at these again and bringing forward revised proposals for the start of next financial year." However, the department insisted that "things were moving forward quite positively".

It is understood that a reason for the delay is that the proposals for multi-party or class actions have a bearing on the review under way by the Lord Chancellor's Department on who is and should be eligible for legal aid.

Henry Whitcomb, a lawyer with Citizen Action, which is campaigning for change in the law of the litigation over Open, the anti-arthritis drug, said: "This matter first came to public attention in early 1988 in the Open litigation. The Lord Chancellor then committed himself to tackling this problem. Now it is more than two years since this commitment and we are concerned at the delay. There are several other large-scale cases pending and action is urgently needed."

The delay coincides with a call by a High Court judge for reforms to High Court rules and procedure to help victims of disasters and other "group" litigants to bring class actions.

Lord Justice Neill wants proposals for reform to be examined by a joint working party of the Law Commission, the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Supreme Court

Procedure Committee, which he chairs. High Court rules now do not allow for "class" actions as brought in the United States.

He told a conference on Thursday of lawyers specialising in litigation over medical products that "one of the difficulties is to identify the case which is suitable for handling as a group case."

"The courts and the law have to try to find a machinery both to reduce the costs by avoiding the trying over and over again of the same issues, and at the same time, which is difficult, make sure every individual's claim is fully and fairly tried."

The courts had started developing an approach to tackle such cases, using a single judge who co-ordinates all the litigation (as in the Open cases), he said.

Two homes seized by mistake

THE Halifax building society and its estate agency subsidiary locked an elderly couple and a graphic designer out of their homes when their properties were repossessed by mistake.

Suzette Janczykowski came home at midnight to find bailiffs had entered her flat in Clifton, Bristol, with a crowbar and changed the locks. A note pinned to the door said the Halifax had repossessed the flat because the mortgage had not been paid.

She tried to contact her landlord without success and spent two days protesting to the Halifax before it discovered that the flat next door should have been taken back and returned to her keys.

In the second case, Henry and Florence Hodson found a similar note on their home in East Dulwich, south London. The couple had not had a mortgage for 20 years and persuaded Halifax Property Services within an hour that an error had been made.

The Halifax apologised and said the two incidents were being investigated.

Kidnap free vic for £1.4

Rio de Janeiro - A man who has released a public utility, Roberto M. payment of a \$2 million (£1.4 million) ransom weeks after he was kidnapped by bandits armed with shotguns, from his fashionable suburb of Janeiro (Louise Byrne writes).

The kidnapping was in a wave to hit the city. Since January, there have been more than 200 kidnappings for the whole of Latin America, three times as many as in 1987.

Four jailed

Paris - A court gave a year prison terms to four members of a right-wing terrorist group who were accused of carrying out a bombing in the Basque country of southwest France. (AFP)

Crime increa

Paris - The crime rate in France rose by 4.2 per cent in 1989, the first increase in years, according to figures. (Reuters)

Prison battle

Tucson - Wardens at Arizona state prison wounded 11 inmates with shotguns fired to break up a riot between black and Hispanic prisoners. (AFP)

Thai charged

Bangkok - A Muslim man, aged 28, a Muslim, has been charged with involvement in the murder of three Saudi Embassy staff in Bangkok this year. (Reuters)

Sparing the ro

Hong Kong - Hong Kong ended the use of corporal punishment in its correctional system. It was a controversial move because of the high number of inmates who were beaten with the cane. (Reuters)

In the key of se

Bonn, West Germany - A "musical" opera about the Holocaust, by the German composer and librettist Hans Krása, is being performed in Bonn. (Reuters)

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Britain joins international relief effort for Iran quake victims

By LIBBY JUKES

BRITAIN yesterday joined the international relief effort to help Iranian earthquake victims. Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, said as a first step specially chartered planes, with blankets and medical equipment, would arrive in Tehran at the weekend. "Britain is prepared to do whatever it can to provide full help to Iran for the victims of this appalling disaster," she said.

Earlier there were suggestions that the Iranians were upset by Britain's failure immediately to send aid, although the two countries broke diplomatic relations over the Salman Rushdie affair. A London spokesman for Iran, the Iranian news agency, said there was "a feeling in Iran that the British government had not responded as promptly as others to news of the disaster". Aid and personnel

ordered by the French and Japanese authorities arrived yesterday in Tehran for distribution to the stricken areas. "In these situations, you do not wait for an official request," the spokesman said.

But the Foreign Office insisted that Britain had never expected a bilateral appeal from Iran, but was awaiting reports from agencies on the ground about the type of aid needed and where it should be sent before dispatching supplies. An Iranian diplomat in London, working under the auspices of the Pakistan High Commission, said it was "very kind" of Britain to provide aid.

Douglas Hard, the foreign secretary, yesterday sent a personal message of condolences and an offer of assistance to his opposite number, Ali Akbar Velayati, via Swedish diplomats in Tehran. The Iranian government was initially thought to have the situation under

control, after launching its own \$14 million (£8.1 million) relief effort in the provinces worst affected by the earthquake. But it soon became clear that the local Red Crescent society could not cope alone with such large-scale devastation. The Iranian authorities said yesterday that help would be welcomed from any source except South Africa or Israel, and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq was among the first to express condolences and promise assistance.

The Iran spokesman confirmed that British help would be welcomed, reviving hopes on both sides for the eventual restoration of diplomatic relations.

John Lytle, the Archbishop of Canterbury's spokesman, yesterday said the families of hostages being held in the Middle East wanted help to be given to Iran regardless of the hostage situation. Mr Lytle said on BBC radio's *The*

World At One: "Their reaction is that it is obviously a natural disaster on a massive scale and that everything possible should be done to help the people of Iran who have suffered and who are suffering and that should be done quite regardless of any other consideration."

A team of 17 British search and rescue experts from the voluntary International Rescue Corps, based in Buckinghamshire, were among the first Western aid workers to reach Iran. The team caught a scheduled flight to Tehran early yesterday morning, after their offer of help was accepted by Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York. Although the International Red Cross suggested that Iran would not welcome foreign rescue personnel, the team was issued with visas valid for at least 14 days by Iranian representatives at Heathrow.

Meanwhile, a small plane carrying five

doctors and nurses from the medical charity Medecins sans Frontières took off from Paris, with further flights from Toulouse and Brussels expected to leave later with 30 rescue workers and 50 tonnes of supplies, including Jeeps. German church groups, the British Red Cross and the Geneva-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies joined forces to answer the Iranian appeal for immediate consignments of medicines and medical equipment, tents, blankets, water filters, electricity generators and vehicles. Japan promised \$542,000 of supplies and sent a team of 19 relief workers. The UN Disaster Relief Organisation sent two senior coordinators to Iran to assess aid needs. The European Community has allocated \$1.2 million of aid.

Teams from the International Rescue Corps assisted in the aftermath of the

Mexican earthquake of 1985 and the Armenian disaster 18 months ago. "We know from past experience that our people will witness scenes of horrific devastation," said Terry Price, the corps commander, who is monitoring the operation from an office in London.

● **Quake appeal:** Iran has set up two earthquake relief bank accounts in London: number 16824 at Bank Mellat, 95A Kensington High Street (telephone 071-937 4321) and 011000 at Bank Saderat Iran, 5 Louthbury, London EC2 (071-606 0951). The British Red Cross also launched a cash appeal. Credit card donations can be made by telephone to 0898 234222. Postal orders and cheques can be sent to Iranian Earthquake Appeal, British Red Cross, PO Box 121, London SW1 7EW.

Leading article, page 13

Undercover army unit 'in South Africa coup plot'

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

A CLANDESTINE unit of the South African Army and a former German Nazi officer have been implicated in an alleged plot by right-wing extremists to overthrow the government and to provide them with sophisticated weapons for assassinations.

The allegations were published in *Vrye Weekblad*, an Afrikaans newspaper, yesterday as security police questioned 11 suspects identified by a former intelligence agent who infiltrated the paramilitary Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) and tape-recorded conversations about plans to create chaos and anarchy as a prelude to a coup.

Those detained on Thursday night included Gary Cornish, a member of the undercover army unit, Heinrich Beissner, a former Waffen SS captain, and Thomas Ferreira, the deputy mayor of Boksburg town council near Johannesburg. All were released after questioning, but a spokesman for the law and order ministry said investigations were continuing and further interrogations were likely.

"We are taking these reports very seriously," the spokesman said. "They will be

investigated to the fullest extent. Where the security of government and political leaders is concerned, no effort will be spared to counter threats from any quarter."

An alarming aspect of the alleged conspiracy to assassinate President de Klerk and senior cabinet ministers, as well as Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, is the reported prominent role apparently attributed to Mr Cornish of the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CSB), a secretive operations unit of the South African Defence Force.

The bureau's activities, which are said in the past to have included the murder of ANC activists in South Africa and abroad, are being investigated by a judicial commission of enquiry, but its 200 agents are still in active service.

Mr Cornish claimed in conversations allegedly tape-recorded by Jan Johannes Smith, the infiltrating agent, that he and other CSB operatives masterminded the conspiracy. Last Tuesday he allegedly gave Mr Smith details of a plan to assassinate Mr Mandela on his return from the United States which was apparently inspired by the novel *Days of the Jackal*.

After disclosing he had supplied an unidentified would-be assassin with a .303 sniper's rifle and "dum-dum" ammunition, he said: "He's already got the .303, telescopic sights, everything. He's only got three bullets but that's all it will take. When Mandela comes back, he's dead meat."

Asked whether the CSB would assist the AWB in the event of a coup, Mr Cornish said on the tape: "Yes, we'll support them. We're not going on our own. We haven't got the men, we've got the brains."

He added that he was in charge of an arms cache which included seven armour-piercing rocket-launchers, 500 automatic rifles with 50,000 rounds of ammunition, and 100 9mm pistols. Most of them were purchased in Mozambique last year by the CSB, he said.

Herr Beissner, aged 77, allegedly divulged plans to blow up power stations, destroy dams and poison water supplies to Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg. He said the projects to kill Mr Mandela and disrupt power supplies were "at activation stage" and they were looking for a chemical engineer to get rid of "a million kaffirs" in Soweto.

Herr Beissner, who allegedly said he despised Jews, blacks and Afrikaners who turned against their own people, evidently feels at home in South Africa. In a recorded conversation, he said: "The police here are the best since the Gestapo."

According to AWB leaders who tried to recruit Mr Smith, the ultimate goal was a *coup d'état* by 4,000 commandos whose units and command structures would be in place by the end of this month.



Bill Traverse, a Manitoba Indian chief, waving a feather in opposition to the Meech Lake constitutional accord

Canada accord looks doomed as opponents rally to Indian chief

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

CANADA'S chance of saving a constitutional accord dimmed yesterday, and now rests on an extension of tonight's midnight deadline for two of the 10 provinces to sign.

Leaders in the central province of Manitoba, where an Indian chief has held up ratification of the agreement to recognize French-speaking Quebec as a "distinct society", have said there is not time before the deadline expires to complete public hearings. Elijah Harper, a leader of the Cree tribe, has vowed again to reject the Meech Lake accord.

on the grounds that it discriminates against Canada's aboriginal people. The shy Indian has triggered a wave of demonstrations and emerged as a national hero for speaking out against an accord which many English-speaking Canadians fear would give Quebec too much power.

Mr Harper's unassuming manner is seen as a welcome break from the political posturing of other leaders in the run-up to the Meech Lake deadline and has attracted sympathy for his concerns. Legislators in Newfoundland,

land, a former British colony which depends upon cod fishing and government subsidies for economic survival, were set to vote on the accord by late afternoon provided they first cleared local business, a debate on a strike by hospital workers. The outcome of the vote hung in the balance, despite a personal plea by Brian Mulroney, the prime minister, for a united Canada to be preserved.

Meech Lake supporters have warned that Quebec could seek sovereignty if the accord dies. The Quebec government has given notice that it will not enter another constitutional debate if the two hold-out provinces fail to pass the accord.

"As far as we are concerned, our books will be closed on the 23rd, and afterwards we will have to think of something else," Gil Remillard, Quebec's minister of intergovernmental affairs, said.

In Winnipeg, the Manitoba assembly was expected to adjourn at lunchtime unless Gary Filmon, the province's premier, backed down on his pledge to ignore pressure from the central government to rush through a vote by shelving public hearings. More than 3,500 Manitobans have asked to speak.

The mood of urgency in Canada about Meech Lake has given way to one of resignation that the accord will fail. French-speaking Quebecois are holding a "death watch" as they prepare to celebrate their

biggest holiday of the year tomorrow, Saint Jean Baptiste Day.

A cartoon in *The Globe and Mail* yesterday depicted Quebec as a broken section of a maple leaf, Canada's national symbol, bidding "Au revoir".

Failure of the accord would put more pressure on Mr Mulroney to resign. Calls for his resignation have mounted following his admission that he set out to manipulate provincial premiers in to signing the accord by leaving crucial decisions until the last minute.

"The death of Meech Lake will rob Brian Mulroney of what little personal credibility he retains in English-speaking parts of Canada," Jeffrey Simpson, a columnist for *The Globe and Mail*, said.

Some Canadians are prepared to see Meech Lake perish in order to call Quebec's bluff on separation and to work out a more accommodating constitution.

"We need a looser relationship, but Canada doesn't have to come apart," said Philip Resnick, a professor of political science at the University of British Columbia and the author of two books on Canada's French-English divide. "The failure of Meech Lake may unleash a far more creative exercise in constitutional making," he said, provided both sides showed willingness to "engage in an open-ended exchange".

Pierre Trudeau, page 12



Richard Nixon, the former US president, and his wife Pat on their 50th wedding anniversary in the garden of their home at Saddle River, New Jersey

Wheeler-dealer silly season comes to Delhi

From KARAN THAPAR IN DELHI

FORTY-THREE years after independence, India seems to have added to the democratic system it took from the United Kingdom by imitating that unique British tradition, the silly season.

Parliament is in recess, summer is in full swing and with temperatures soaring above 100F it appears that the heat has gone to everyone's head. Not since 1979, when the Janata government of the time was teetering on the brink of collapse, has the air been so thick with talk of political cabals and conspiracies.

Yet the issue exercising parliamentarians and press alike is the somewhat eccentric one of a national government. Should India have one? Who will join it and lead it? And who will lose?

The matter first surfaced on the front page of the *Indian Express* when its editor alleged that members of the Janata Dal party of the prime minister, V. P. Singh, and his Communist supporters were toying with the idea. Their real intention, which the newspaper claimed to be exposing, was to topple Mr Singh.

Yet the *Express* mission seems to have backfired. While the MPs it claimed were behind the conspiracy publicly denied their involvement and have complained to the Press Council, the prime minister has indicated his support for the idea. In fact, Mr Singh went further. He told journalists that he would be prepared to step down to facilitate the creation of a national government.

Perhaps he was simply indicating that, unlike conventional Indian politicians, he would not remain in office at any cost. But whatever his motives, his party did not approve of this indulgence in public rumination. They felt that, rather than letting the members of a controversy go cold, the prime minister had stoked up the fire.

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Troops plan for Germany takes West by surprise

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

THE Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, caught the Western allies unawares yesterday by presenting them with a full draft programme of phased troop cuts for Nato forces in Germany, a proposed ceiling on the size of a future united German army, and the speedy withdrawal of allied troops from Berlin.

Britain, France and the United States, whose foreign ministers were meeting in East Berlin for the "two plus four" talks on the security arrangements for a united Germany, immediately opposed the solution, saying that it had no place within the current negotiations.

Mr Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union favoured a 50 per cent reduction in Western allied military presence in Germany over the next three years and wanted to

see the German army reduced to a territorial defence force incapable of launching a war.

He also proposed that both Germanies should stay in their respective alliances for five years and added: "The competence and spheres of action of the Warsaw Pact and Nato should not be extended to territories outside their current spheres of action."

The move comes as the Soviet Union finds itself entrenched in its isolation on the question of Nato membership of a united Germany. It is the most concrete Soviet proposal so far and is evidently intended to dispel discontent at home, as the country is perceived to be losing influence over the future shape of Europe.

The Western allies, however, have countered that a future Germany must have "absolutely the same rights as every other European country", diplomats reported. The allies are unwilling to see troop reductions brought into the two plus four negotiations and have responded that any such moves would have to be discussed at the talks on conventional arms reduction, being held in Vienna.

Earlier, at a military ceremony to mark the closing of the American observation point, Checkpoint Charlie, Mr Shevardnadze upstaged the event's host, the American Secretary of State, James Baker, by proposing that all allied troops should be withdrawn from Berlin six months after reunification, scheduled for December of this year.

"We propose to our partners that, with the establishment of a joint German parliament and government, the allied regime be abolished and the troops of the four allied powers leave the greater Berlin region within a six-month period," he said.

The suggestion drew loud applause from the crowd of Berliners gathered to witness the event, but the three Western powers and West Germany have made no attempt to hide their irritation at what they see as a Soviet attempt to force the pace of negotiation on the future shape of Germany. "It was a total shock for us that the Soviets came in with a complete draft," said a Western diplomat.

Both the West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and Mr Baker reiterated in their talks on Thursday that the thorny topic of troop sizes should play no part in the two plus four negotiations. The Western allies have 12,000 troops stationed in Berlin, while the Soviet Union has 2,500 of its 380,000 troops on East German soil stationed in the eastern sector of the city. West Germany has suggested reducing its army from 495,000 troops to between 300,000 and 400,000, while Moscow is now hunting at a ceiling of 250,000. The East German foreign minister, Markus Meckel, considers a 300,000 ceiling to be the lowest acceptable figure.

Herr Meckel said yesterday that he considered a transition period to Nato membership acceptable "as long as it is clear how long it will last and what will replace it".



Boris Yeltsin betraying his exhaustion at the closing session of the Russian Federation conference yesterday

Hints of Gorbachev stepdown haunt Russian party congress

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Communist Party conference — now congress — has been punctuated by hints and denials that President Gorbachev is preparing to step down as general secretary of the Soviet Communist party.

On Wednesday a passing remark by Mr Gorbachev that he might not be party leader in 10 days' time was interpreted as meaning that he intended to quit. Within hours Yuri Prokofyev, the Moscow first secretary, who is considered a close Gorbachev ally, appeared at a press conference to set the record straight.

The next day Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, who had met Mr Gorbachev the previous evening, told a group of Austrian journalists he would not be surprised if the Soviet president decided to step down from his party post. Simultaneously, the head of the Leningrad party, Boris Gidasov, told other foreign journalists he did not believe

Mr Gorbachev would step down and said it would be "a big loss, a drama, for the party" if he did.

Between these two episodes, Mr Yeltsin had told *Pravda* that he was considering suspending his party membership to be seen as a politically impartial Russian president, and Yegor Ligachev, figurehead of the party's conservative wing, had publicly questioned whether one man had the time to perform party and state leadership functions effectively.

The "will he, won't he" speculation is likely to continue until Mr Gorbachev himself makes a pronouncement, but the airing of so many views on the subject in the same week shows that his continued leadership of the Soviet Communist party is being talked about in party circles and is likely to be a consideration, if only behind the scenes, at the party congress which opens on July 2.

There are compelling reasons why President Gorbachev could be considering giving up his party post and equally compelling reasons why he could choose not to.

The least possible scenario, from the present perspective, is that he would be forced from the post. His commanding manner as chairman of the Russian party conference this week and the powers he wields as state president suggest that, if he departs from the general secretary's post, it will be at his own instigation.

Several considerations could be uppermost in a decision to resign. For one person to combine both leadership functions has proved unpopular in the party and the country generally.

Two ideas have penetrated even the less politically aware sections of the Soviet public: the first is that a president should be directly elected by all the people, the other is that one person should not hold two senior posts simultaneously. At present Mr Gorbachev errs on both counts. His popularity in the country could be improved if he stepped down from the party.

Aside from this simple popular view, Mr Ligachev's implied complaint, echoed by others, that Mr Gorbachev has neglected party work to concentrate on state leadership is only one side of the argument. The other is the view held by Mr Yeltsin, and widely supported, that a president should not simultaneously be bound by party discipline.

The other main reason why the Soviet president could choose to leave his party post would be in order not to be too closely associated with the party's decline. Only General Jaruzelski in Poland has successfully remained in politics through East Europe's transition to democracy, and he switched horses from party to state soon enough.

As Mr Gidasov's remarks indicated, the party's authority would suffer and its decline would probably be accelerated if Mr Gorbachev ceased to be general secretary. The question Mr Gorbachev has to ask, though, is whether the party is yet so weak that it could not become a power base for a potential opponent.

A partial answer may be given at this week's Russian party conference and Mr Gorbachev is unlikely to make up his mind, if he is considering resigning at all, before that conference ends.

The election of the Russian first secretary will indicate the likely balance of conservative-centrist-radical forces at the Soviet party congress. If it tips towards the conservatives, then Mr Gorbachev is unlikely to risk handing over the leadership of the Soviet Communist party. If it tips towards the centre or the reformists, he might be prepared to make way for another general secretary of his own choosing.

The name of Aleksandr Yakovlev, his trusted Politburo colleague, has been mentioned.

Unconfirmed reports say that the security and economic sections of the decree were discussed at a meeting early in the week between Mr Yeltsin and President Gorbachev, who expressed his deep misgivings about them. On Wednesday Mr Yeltsin persuaded the Russian parliament to satisfy itself with approving the decree in principle and postpone more detailed discussion.

That decision ensures that direct conflict between laws of the central Soviet authorities and those of the Russian Federation has been avoided for the time being.

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US profits as Soviet brain drain quickens

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

YURI Malinovsky sits at the wheel of his Buick radio-cab waiting for a passenger in Manhattan. On his lap is perched a fat treatise in English on hydrodynamics.

Until last year Mr Malinovsky was a professor of mechanical engineering in Odessa. Now he has joined the army of thousands of educated Soviet citizens — the great majority of them Jewish and Armenian — who are struggling to break into professional life in the United States.

"It's like starting from scratch," said the former professor, who holds the equivalent of a PhD and boasts 15 years of experience in teaching and research but speaks little English.

"It's not just learning the language, it's getting used to fighting all the competition — not only with the Americans, but also the Koreans and Indians and all the rest. But I don't regret it for a second. This is America."

Next to Israel, the United States is the main beneficiary of the exodus from the Soviet Union over the past three years. Three-quarters of the recent Soviet Jewish immigrants hold university qualifications and about 2,000, like Mr Malinovsky, are scientists with advanced degrees.

By one official Soviet estimate, 10 per cent of the 230,000 emigrants last year belonged to the highest levels of professional qualification, a loss that the Soviet Union can ill afford.

Like earlier generations of immigrants, once in the United States they usually face years of work as taxi drivers, salesmen or other jobs which are well below their educational standard.

It is not uncommon in New York to find your laundry being delivered by a Russian doctor and a senior Aeroflot captain at the wheel of your taxi.

The flood of Jewish and Armenian arrivals is only part of the drain of Soviet talent to the United States. While the overall numbers are much smaller, universities and research laboratories are quietly attracting some of the brightest Russian scientists and engineers to work in their

chosen fields. Several hundred Soviet mathematicians, physicists and other specialists are now on visiting fellowships at Berkeley, Stanford and UCLA in California, to Harvard, Yale and Princeton on the East Coast. Last year more than a thousand visas were issued for scholarly exchanges.

Given the precarious state of their country, many are expected to seek permanent work in the United States. Nineteen senior Soviet scholars have been in Berkeley since early last year and at least two dozen mathematicians have worked at Harvard.

Most prominent of the new arrivals is Roald Sagdeyev, the Soviet Union's renowned space scientist and an adviser to President Gorbachev. Dr Sagdeyev, now married to Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of the late American president, is working at the University of Maryland.

"If I were in the Soviet Academy of Sciences, I would be worried," David Wilkinson, the head of Princeton's physics department, said in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Princeton has just acquired two teaching professors from the Soviet Union.

A United States network to help Soviet scientists has developed since last February's meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at which visiting Russians gave an emotional account of their plight at home.

"Many people are afraid to stay," Maxim Frank Kamensky, a professor of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, told the conference. The scientists complained of a dire lack of resources and a bureaucracy which stifles free-ranging research.

"When you walk into US labs and see everyone at computer screens doing their own work, you want to cry," one said.

Earlier this month Yuri Osipian, a member of Mr Gorbachev's presidential council, urged Moscow to find ways of stemming the brain drain. But many Russians in America say they cannot imagine how the money or facilities at home could be made attractive enough to entice them to go back.

And officials say, is that prescribing penalties would only inflame the situation politically. Countries unwilling to obey a Brussels ruling are even less likely to pay a fine. And what should the court then do? Flouting a specific penalty is far more damaging to the court's dignity and authority than ignoring its rulings.

"You must not ask the court to do that which you will not accept politically that it does do," said Professor David Edward, Britain's first judge in the newly established Court of First Instance — a preliminary body to determine facts in complex cases and relieve the overburdened main court.

Determining the size of a fine is also difficult. "What

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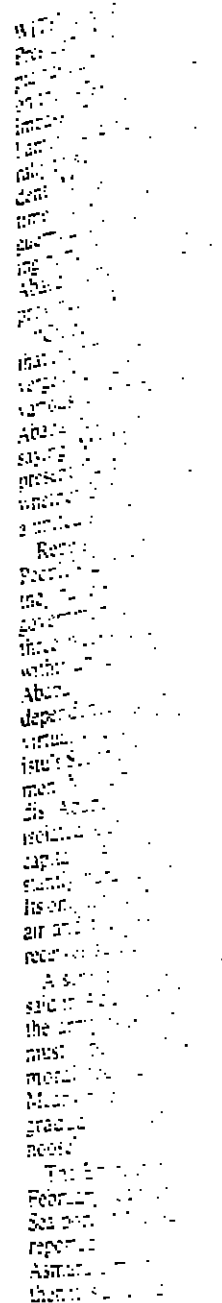
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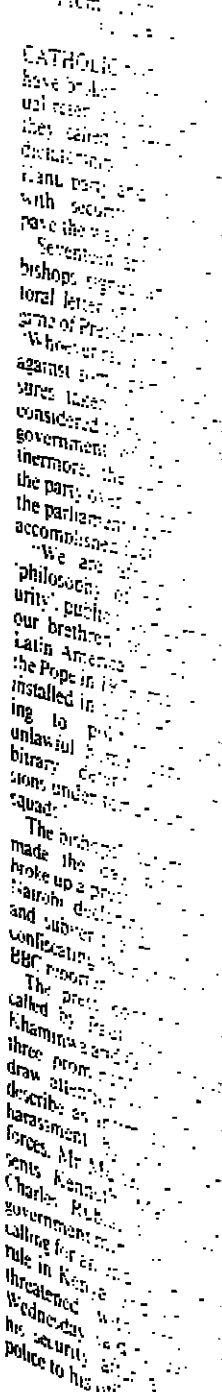
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Mengistu in last-stand plea as rebel forces close in

From JONATHAN CLAYTON OF REUTERS IN NAIROBI

WITH rebel groups closing in, President Mengistu of Ethiopia has admitted his country is on the verge of collapse. In an impassioned speech to parliament urging the people to rally to save the nation, President Mengistu for the first time this week confirmed guerrilla reports of fierce fighting north of the capital, Addis Ababa, and the Red Sea province of Eritrea.

"Citizens must realise that their motherland is on the verge of collapse in the face of various conspiracies," Addis Ababa radio quoted him as saying. Mr Mengistu said the present fighting would decide whether Ethiopia survived as a united sovereign state.

Rebels linked to the Tigre People's Liberation Front say they have killed nearly 22,000 government troops in the past three weeks and claim to be within about 60 miles of Addis Ababa, while Eritrean independence guerrillas have virtually cut off Mr Mengistu's Second Army of 120,000 men. Military analysts in Addis Ababa say the army is isolated outside the Eritrean capital, Asmara, and constantly harassed by guerrillas. Its only link to the capital is by air and they say it no longer receives sufficient supplies.

A senior Western diplomat said in Addis Ababa last week the army was "encircled and must be thoroughly demoralised and defeated. Meanwhile, the rebels are gradually tightening the noose".

The Eritrean rebels, who in February captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, are now reported to be closing in on Asmara airport. "If that goes, then it is as good as over," said

the diplomat, adding that for the first time in 29 years of warfare the rebels would control the entire province.

In his speech, President Mengistu said the setbacks followed an agreement between the Eritrean and Tigrean liberation fronts to launch a joint offensive "to divide and disintegrate the country". He declared: "The choice before citizens is obvious. It is either to struggle for the unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia or to see its downfall and destruction."

Diplomats said Mr Mengistu was trying to appeal to the strong sense of nationalism of most Ethiopians, but doubted whether he would succeed. "The war has gone on too long and he is too closely associated with it for this to carry much weight," one said.

The president lost more support last month when 12 leading military officers were executed for involvement in an attempted coup in May 1989. The executions, carried out in the cellar of the presidential palace, provoked the first open expression of anti-government sentiment seen in the capital for years.

Meanwhile, concessions by the government to try to revive the stalled peace process have been met with scepticism by the rebels, who accuse President Mengistu of playing for time. Earlier this month, the government gave in to a key demand of the Eritrean rebels to invite United Nations observers to attend peace talks. So far no date has been fixed for the talks, sponsored jointly by the former US president, Jimmy Carter, and the former Tanzanian president, Julius Nyerere.

Tamils accused of massacring Muslims

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN COLOMBO

TAMIL guerrillas hacked to death 62 Muslim villagers in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, accusing them of being government informants, the defence ministry and an opposition Muslim leader said.

The massacre at Nintavur came on the eleventh day of war between Tamil separatists and Sri Lankan forces for control of the northeast. In the north, rebel forces overran one army base. Ethnic strife between Tamils and Sinhalese spread to south and central Sri Lanka, and military officials said at least 139 more people died in fighting, bringing the toll to more than 1,400 since June 11.

The defence ministry said troops found the bodies of Muslim men, women, and children in Nintavur. Military officials said, rebels used knives to kill the villagers.

Survivors said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam raided the village early yesterday because they feared the residents would reveal their jungle hideaway, according to Mahroof Gani of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, an opposition party. He said the rebels set fire to a mosque, looted and burnt down houses and left placards warning Muslims not to work for the government.

The defence ministry said Nintavur was hit by fleeing Tamil rebels who lost at least 100 of their fighters during a battle with government troops



Young rebels with a cause: boy guerrillas of the Tamil Tigers in the jungle near Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka

at Karativu village, a rebel stronghold nearby.

Residents in Batticaloa, the capital city of the district, said they believed the Nintavur killings were carried out by government soldiers.

● AMPARAI: Survivors at a refugee camp here yesterday described a pogrom in which

26 out of a community of 100 Tamils died on June 12 (James Pringle writes).

"We were just eating supper," said Mrs Mahen Kelimma, aged 22, a Tamil woman from the village of Ingineyagala, near here. "Then I heard a noise."

According to Sinhalese

neighbours, a mob of 150 stormed through the village towards the little community of Tamils. Soon, they said, they could hear the screams of the Tamils.

"I picked up three of my children and told my fourth boy, the eldest, to follow me," said Mrs Kelimma. "We ran

... towards the forest. I looked back and saw some men grab my son. They seemed to be throwing liquid on him from a can." Later his burnt body was found.

"My mother, brother and sister also died. I hid with my other children in the forest for four days."

about 0.35 per cent of GNP.

Saturday Review, page 14

Tokyo says it is top aid donor

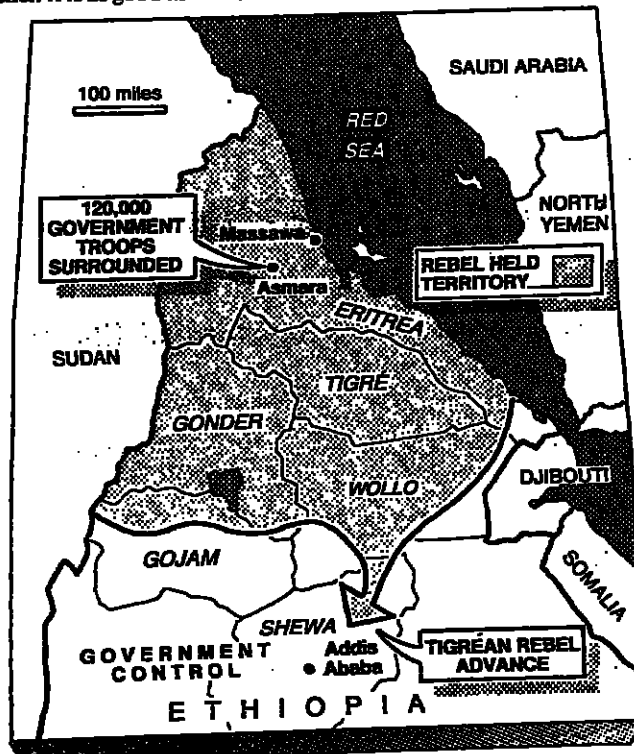
From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN claimed yesterday to have overtaken America last year as the world's largest foreign aid donor. The country's political leaders hope that what they call "an epoch-making development" will end international criticism of Japan's traditional lack of generosity.

Japan's foreign ministry said official development aid in 1989 totalled \$8.95 billion (£5.2 million), down 1.9 per cent in dollar terms because of the fall in the value of the yen. America's spending fell more sharply, from \$10.14 billion to \$7.66 billion. US figures exclude military assistance.

France was third with \$7.46 billion. Tokyo was hurt earlier this year when President Mitterrand attacked it for proposing vast aid plans but actually paying out very little.

While Japan may have overtaken America in aid spending, it is still chastised for funneling 70 per cent to its own backyard in Asia, and for paying out only 0.32 per cent of its gross national product in foreign aid. The average among industrialised nations is about 0.35 per cent of GNP.



Bishops critical of Moi

From MARTI COLLEY IN NAIROBI

CATHOLIC bishops in Kenya have broken with their habitual reserve to denounce what they called a trend towards dictatorship by the ruling Kanu party and an obsession with security which could pave the way for excesses.

Seventeen archbishops and bishops signed an open pastoral letter criticising the regime of President Moi. It said: "Whoever raises any criticism against some particular measures taken by the party is considered to be attacking the government of Kenya. Furthermore, the superiority of the party over the authority of the parliament seems to be an accomplished fact."

"We are afraid that the 'philosophy of national security', publicly condemned by our brethren, the bishops of Latin America in union with the Pope in 1979, may become installed in our country, leading to political murders, unlawful home searches, arbitrary detentions, confessions under torture and death squads."

The bishops' statement was made the day after police broke up a press conference in Nairobi, declaring it an illegal and subversive meeting and confiscating the notebook of a BBC reporter.

The press conference was called by Paul Muir, John Khaminwa and Gibson Kuria, three prominent lawyers, to draw attention to what they describe as intimidation and harassment by the security forces. Mr Muir, who represents Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia, two former government ministers who are calling for an end to one-party rule in Kenya, and who were threatened with arrest on Wednesday, said he feared for his security after a visit by police to his office.

Executions on increase in China

From MARTI COLLEY IN NAIROBI

Peking - China has executed dozens of serious offenders during the past month as part of the latest law-and-order campaign in which the Supreme Court has called for heavy and swift sentencing (Catherine Sampson writes). The Legal Daily newspaper commented yesterday that the campaign so far was a success but gave no clues as to when it would end.

The paper hinted that over-zealous officers might be getting carried away. Despite the urgency of the struggle against crime, it said, law enforcers should attempt to do things according to the book. This latest campaign is aimed at murderers, rapists, terrorists and pimps, and also at thieves, economic criminals, and those who sabotage transport and communications.

House fails to protect US flag

Washington - The US House of Representatives has rejected a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag against desecration, killing its chances for passage this year.

The 254-177 vote for the amendment was 35 short of the two-thirds majority required for passage in both the House and Senate. (Reuter)

Burma regime ducks handover

Rangoon - The military regime in Burma, humiliated by an opposition landslide in last month's elections, yesterday promised talks with the winners but effectively rejected demands for a quick handover of power.

A spokesman said it was waiting for the proper time to hold a dialogue between the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council and the political parties. (Reuter)



What are the prospects for German reunification this year?

Are two more German rulers about to be overthrown?

This Sunday, in a special 16-page Wimbledon supplement, the Observer assesses the chances of Steffi Graf and Boris Becker holding on to their crowns.

We consider the top 20

contenders for their titles - and put forward a new theory as to why none of them is British.

There's a chart showing the draw for the tournament, so you can enter the results

day by day.

And if you want to gain entry to Wimbledon but still have no tickets, we offer you various tips on how to see some action.

None of which, we hasten to add, involves the breaching of any walls.

OBSERVER

A different set of values, a different kind of paper.

Saying no to holy war

Clifford Longley

Any number of organisations claim to speak for Britain's Muslims. So far none has emerged as dominant and journalists have to be careful not to take such claims at face value. An Iranian-backed group, the Muslim Institute in London, is the latest to make its bid for leadership. As might be expected, it is virulently anti-British; more surprisingly, it is almost as viciously anti-Saudi. The institute, directed by Dr Kalim Siddiqui, is busily capitalising on the *Satanic Verses* affair, which it sees as its chance for ascendancy and power.

The Muslim Institute wants to start a Council of British Muslims, and is offering an olive branch to any established Muslim organisation that will join it. The real appeal, however, is to British-born Muslim youth. The level of idealism, commitment and militancy is deliberately high. Its *Muslim Manifesto*, published this week, describes *jihad* (holy war) as a basic requirement of Islam, and says that "living in Britain or having British nationality by birth or naturalisation does not absolve the Muslim from his or her duty to participate in *jihad*".

This participation "can be active service in armed struggle abroad and/or the provision of material and moral support to those engaged in such struggle anywhere in the world". There is no third option. At home, integration and assimilation are rejected as weapons used against the Muslim faith by "the British" (which category is evidently supposed to exclude Muslims).

Money counts in British Islam, and fortunately Iran has little. The real target of the *Muslim Manifesto* is Saudi Arabia, which is called "hypocritical" and "insincere". The Saudi royal family is the guardian of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, and using this prestige and its financial weight, Saudi Arabia has quietly dominated, and even controlled, the development of Muslim community life in Britain. It reserves credit for doing so responsibly.

Saudi Arabia is the leading sponsor of the Regent's Park Mosque, and the leading financier of mosques and other community institutions throughout Britain. But Saudi Arabia and Libya (another source of funds for British Islam) have been wrong-footed by Iran over *The Satanic Verses*, in a more Islamic-than-thou competition in extremism. So the *Muslim Manifesto*, which two years ago would have been laughed out of court, has appeared at a volatile moment.

These are Middle Eastern squabbles, however. Most Muslims in Britain were either born in the Indian subcontinent or have parents who were; they do not naturally look to Arabs or Iranians for leadership. The Muslim Institute's appeal to Muslim youth in Britain presupposes at

least a degree of the very integration it deplores — enough, at the very minimum, to weaken the hold of a Pakistani, Indian or Bangladeshi background, so that Iranians, Arabs sympathetic to Iran, or even the Muslim Institute itself can speak for them.

But Muslims have proved themselves not much better than Christians at transcending national rivalry: armed conflicts between Muslim states are as common today as conflicts between Christian states in the past. The Pakistani community in Britain is split into regional Muslim sects which distrust each other intensely. At least in Britain they can live together peacefully.

The only realistic basis for transcending the various factionalism and nationalisms within the British Muslim population is the absorption of a common British culture, rather than any appeal to a mythical Islamic *ummah* (single, united, global Muslim community). Britain has so dominant and powerful a culture that efforts to resist absorption will almost certainly be in vain. Muslims should note what happened here to the French Huguenots, the Irish Catholics, the majority of Middle and Eastern European Jews, and even the post-war Poles. The same is already happening to the Muslims.

A Muslim is not being unfaithful to his beliefs by recognising that Judaism and Catholicism are no less inclusive and demanding in their claims than Islam. Over the years many members of these groups have generally become utterly British, entirely indigenous, enriching the native wit and stock, yet holding firmly to their beliefs. The groups lose some of their number, and they gain others. Residual anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism still exist, but those hostilities decline with each generation.

Britain swallows such minorities whole, unlike the United States where ethnic difference is encouraged. And all but the most blinkered Anglican would have to admit that real *Ood-fearing* religion in Britain is now seen more among Catholics, Jews and Muslims than in the Church of England.

The only viable course for Muslims born in Britain is to be British, and to love their country. That does not stop them loving their faith. Britain is a good place to be a Catholic, a Jew or a Muslim; better than most. Coexistence of faiths demands maturity, the intelligence to separate the essential from the incidental, and the grace to treat one's faith as an offering to the common good. Catholicism is in better heart in Britain than in many a so-called Catholic country. British Jewry is admired by Jews all over the world. There is every reason to hope that Muslims in Britain can expect as good a future.

Jill Sherman, social services correspondent, on the conflict over the pace of NHS reforms

Clarke, the shackled revolutionary

The choice between revolutionary and evolutionary change has hampered Kenneth Clarke's reform of the health service. The government has been plagued by indecision about whether to present its programme as radical change or as mere tinkering with management, and this has been exploited by the medical profession and the Opposition. If it does too much too quickly it will be accused of dismantling the NHS; if it does too little, the reforms will be regarded as a waste of time and energy.

This week there were reports that Mrs Thatcher, against the wishes of her health secretary, had called for the more far-reaching reforms to be delayed. The wound was smartly sutured by her denial, but the scar remains.

Mr Clarke conveyed a muddled message to health authority members in Scarborough yesterday, claiming that although he wanted to break the mould of the NHS, there would be few surprises and no disruption in the pattern of services for the first year or two.

Mr Clarke's men deny that he has had his wings clipped by the prime minister, and that he is under backbench pressure to rein

in his proposals. They maintain that there have been no complaints from the whips' office, that there will be no U-turn, and that the reforms are going ahead on schedule from April 1991.

Health authorities will then start buying services for the people in their areas, with money for the first time following the patients. Service contracts will be drawn up, with hospitals specifying basic quality standards such as maximum waiting times. Between 40 and 50 NHS trusts will be set up and 300 or so family doctors will manage their own budgets.

All this sounds tediously familiar. What has changed is the presentation of the reforms and the expected achievements in the first year. It is now clear that there will be no revolution, and that the evolution will be even slower than expected. This has more to do with the monolithic nature of the beast Mr Clarke is trying to change than with mere political whim. Nevertheless, the prime minister is understandably nervous of any upheavals during the run-up to the general election; she told Mr Clarke so months ago.

If, for example, district health authority managers start exercis-

ing their rights to choose where to send their patients, had or expensive hospitals may go out of business. The most likely victims of an internal market are prestigious hospitals in London which will be competing aggressively against one another. When the losers start closing wards, Mrs Thatcher will look particularly vulnerable in her Finchley constituency.

Hospitals still do not have the necessary information technology to operate an internal market, even if tightly regulated. Health authorities or GP budget-holders will find it almost impossible to have sophisticated contracts ready for action on April 1.

Very little, now seems, will happen in April directly affecting patients. Most will still see the same GP and go to the same hospital. The structures for trading services will be in place, but the market will be so tightly regulated that hospitals will be unable to compete. Health authorities have been told that to begin with, they must not alter existing referral patterns. Good hospitals will not be able to earn more money for more work, because they will not get more work. Similarly, bad hospitals will not go bankrupt be-

cause patients will be guaranteed. Most managers accept these restrictions, aware that they will be busy enough setting up the new mechanisms. However, they argue that unless Mr Clarke gets significant extra resources for the NHS next year, they will be unable to get even this far. Maverick district and self-governing hospitals which want to go faster may not get their business plans approved. Nothing will really change in the initial twelve months, Mrs Thatcher has been assured.

Mr Clarke's greatest fear is the distinct possibility that the whole exercise will be regarded as a damp squib. The less enthusiastic managers and doctors will sit back and do nothing, while the entrepreneurial ones will feel let down.

That is why he is reluctant to abandon his revolutionary fervour. Though a firm believer in the NHS, he has always been enthusiastic about the reforms. He is also convinced that the only way to budge a slumbering dinosaur is to kick it quite hard.

Carried away by the "we can do no wrong" attitude of a government at the height of popularity in its third term of office, Mr Clarke was more bullish than he should

have been. Instead of saying to the NHS: "We have reviewed the service and decided it is so good that we only want to tinker with how it is managed", he all but disowned it.

As the political climate has changed, with Labour doing much better in the polls, Mr Clarke has wisely revised his approach, but he is nevertheless determined that the reforms should go ahead. He is intent on breaking the mould of national pay bargaining, by letting self-governing hospitals set their own pay rates. And he is keen to make the medical profession more accountable, in terms of both cost and clinical standards. He wants to see shorter waiting times for admissions and hospital out-patient appointments.

It will take between two and three years before anyone knows whether the reforms will work or not, and by then the election will have been held. Mr Clarke has to maintain some momentum to avoid disappointing the keener managers and doctors in the service, but he should realise that a gradual evolution is more realistic, less risky and much more acceptable to the public, doctors and most politicians.

No group is an island: all division diminishes us

Without the cold breath of ideological hostility between blocs, ethnic nationalism is again beginning to smoulder. From Georgia and Azerbaijan to Quebec, the approaching 21st century is beginning to look alarmingly like the 19th.

At such a pivotal moment in history, it is necessary to restate the modern, liberal principles of statehood which led us away from the bloody disasters of nationalism and ethnically-based politics.

In the early 1980s, I pressed successfully for the Canadian Constitution Act. This eschewed "distinct society" status for Quebec in favour of a federalist solution, but in 1987 "distinct society" status was granted by the Meech Lake Accord, and now it threatens to balkanise Canada. There are lessons from the Canadian experience for all countries grappling with the re-emergence of ethnic-based nationalism.

If six million Canadians of French origin cannot manage to share their national sovereignty with 20 million of British and other origins, there is little hope for far less privileged regions of the world, where deprivation fuels age-old enmities.

Throughout history, when a state has taken an exclusive and intolerant idea of religion or ethnicity as its cornerstone, the usual outcome has been violence and war. Religion had to be displaced as the basis of the state before religious wars could be ended, and there is little hope of putting an end to wars between nations until the nation, defined as a narrow ethnic unit, ceases to be the basis of a state.

From Nazi Germany to Islamic Iran, states that define their function essentially in terms of ethnic or religious attributes inevitably become chauvinistic and intolerant. Nationalists are politically reactionary because they are led to define the common good in terms of an ethnic group or religious ideal, rather than terms of the whole people. That is why nationalist government tends to be intolerant, discriminatory and totalitarian.

Lord Acton wrote in 1862 that as an ideal unit founded on race, the nation "overrules the rights and wishes of its inhabitants, absorbing their divergent interests in a fictitious unity; sacrifices their

inclinations and duties to the higher claim of nationality, and crushes all natural rights and all established liberties for the purpose of vindicating itself. Whenever a single definite object is made the supreme end of the State, the State becomes for the time being inevitably absolute."

So a truly democratic government, whether provincial or federal — cannot be nationalist, because it must pursue the good of all its citizens, regardless of sex, colour, race, religious belief and ethnic origin. Democratic government stands for good citizenship, never nationalism.

This is not to say that the state must disregard cultural or linguistic values: they must have high priority. And while government policies will inevitably serve the interests of ethnic groups, especially of the majority: this should be a natural consequence of the equality of all citizens, not a special privilege of the largest group.

By the seat of his chance

Labour's dwindling number of hereditary peers may be further diminished if the heir to Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, chief whip in the Lords until his death last week, disclaims his title. Fred Ponsonby, who is 31, was one of the few Labour candidates to taste victory in the Wandsworth council Tory landslide last month. He is politically ambitious, and has confided to friends that he is considering emulating the 2nd Viscount Stansgate (now plain Tony Benn) in renouncing his peerage.

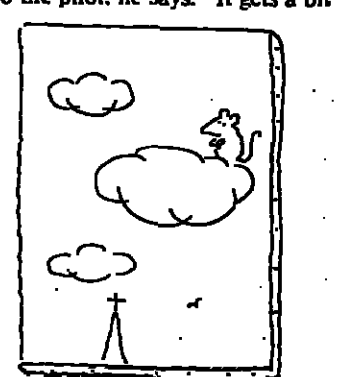
With only 12 hereditary peers, and few working ones, the Opposition is sorely stretched. Labour peers are trying to persuade Ponsonby to take his seat by offering him the prospect of a frontbench post for life and ministerial office under a Labour government. Lord Ponsonby has six months to make up his mind. He will have to weigh the peers' offer against the chances of securing a safe seat in the Commons — and the eventual possibility of the party's highest office, David Williamson, co-editor of *Debut* magazine, says: "It is a dilemma for him, but there have been many examples of people forsaking their titles for places in the Commons." Since the 1963 Peerage Act, 12 peers have disclaimed their titles.

Lord Hailsham, who disclaimed his title in 1963 to make a bid for the Tory leadership, wants his son, Douglas Hogg, the Tory MP and minister, to resume it, but Hogg is thought to have different ideas.

Tony Benn's title, on his death, will pass to his eldest son, Stephen, who shares his father's left-wing views, so history may repeat itself. But, says the younger Benn, "the question is academic: the second chamber will have been reformed by then, so it won't arise."

Knife and blade

Royal artist Terence Cuneo has scaled new heights in his quest for artistic excellence. After painting more royals than anyone since Van Dyck, the 82-year-old Cuneo has been hanging out of the door of a helicopter painting a picture of the spire of Salisbury Cathedral. Well strapped and linked by intercom to the pilot, he says: "It gets a bit



(GED after CUNEO)

windy, and makes me dizzy, but it's the only way to paint the spire properly. There is no danger of my falling out, but the pilot does become anxious when I stretch out a little too far for his liking." Cuneo has been airborne three times, and has just put the final

touches to the oil painting, which is expected to raise £15,000 for the Salisbury Cathedral spire appeal. Like all his paintings since 1953, it bears his hallmark: a to-scale mouse. For his next work, Cuneo plans an even more arduous exertion: "I'm going riding with the cowboys in Texas."

Back to your kitchens

A picture of bigotry, snobbery and elitism sufficient to drive the gentlest liberal into the arms of the Workers' Revolutionary Party emerges from *Haus Off to Conservative Women*, written by Elizabeth Hodder to commemorate 60 years of women's Tory conferences. At various times during that period, says the book, Conservative women — motivated by "patriotism, unity, stoicism, true blue grit" and a hatred of socialism — "did not want valuable resources to be spent on educating those who did not want it or warrant it." They thought young women did not deserve the vote because "they smoked and drank too much and had haircuts which were far too short"; they criticised

the principle of equality of the French and English languages in all domains of federal jurisdiction, so guaranteeing English and French speakers alike the right to education in their own language anywhere in Canada.

In the grand tradition of the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, and the 1791 Bill of Rights of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms under the 1982 Act implicitly established the primacy of the individual over the state and all government institutions, and thereby recognised that all sovereignty resides in the people.

In this respect, the Canadian Charter was a new beginning for the nation. It sought to strengthen the country's unity by basing the sovereignty of the Canadian people on common values, and in particular on equality for all Canadians.

Clearly, the very adoption of a constitutional charter is in keeping with the purest liberalism, accord-

ing to which all members of a civil society enjoy certain fundamental, inalienable rights and cannot be deprived of them by any nation, ethnic or religious group. All individuals are free and equal, each with absolute dignity and value. As such, individuals cannot be coerced by any ancestral tradition, for they are vassals neither to race, religion, condition of birth, nor collective history.

It follows from this that only the individual, not the ethnic group, is the possessor of rights. Groups have rights only by delegation from their members. The spirit and substance of the Canadian Charter is clear: it protects the individual from the tyranny of the state and from any other tyranny to which the individual may be subjected by virtue of his belonging to a minority group.

The notion of Quebec as a "distinct society" (where individual rights are subordinated to collective rights) reopens the possibility of the balkanisation of Canada and threatens to undermine the very foundation of a liberal state. Such balkanisation may presage a return to a kind of conflict once thought to have passed into history.

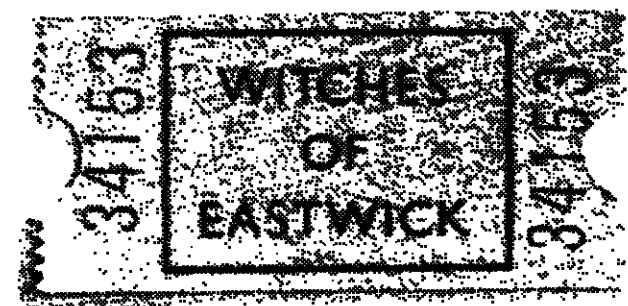
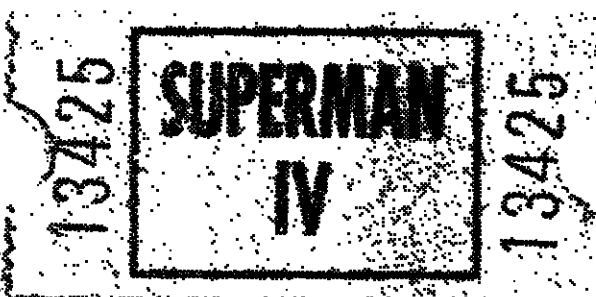
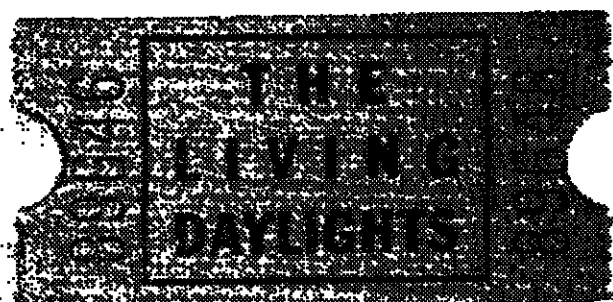
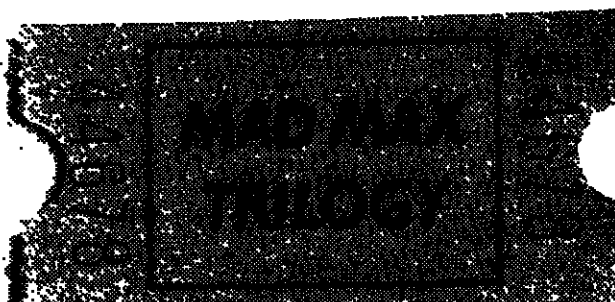
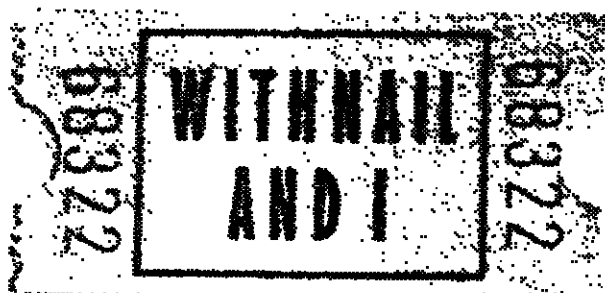
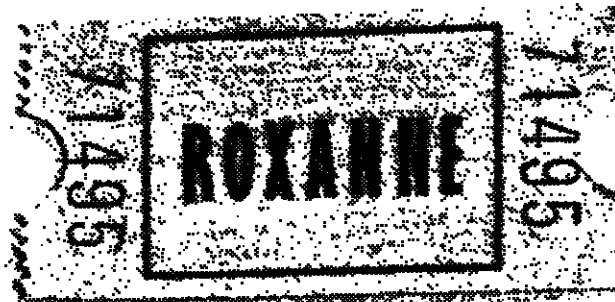
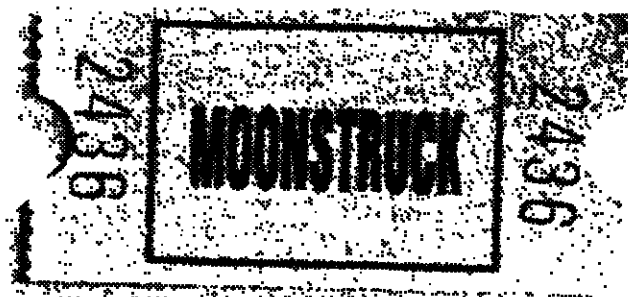
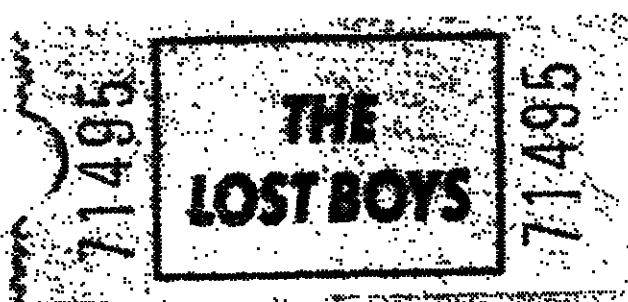
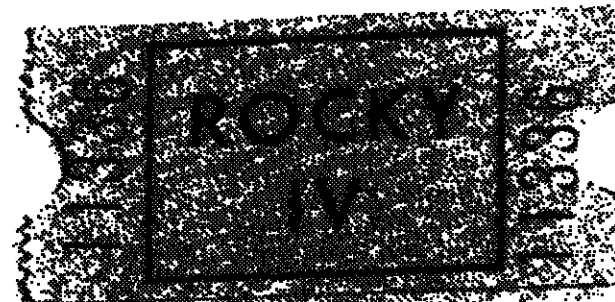
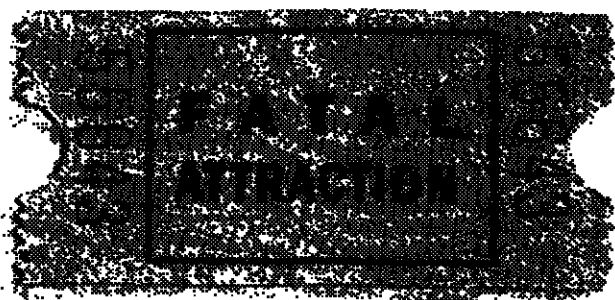
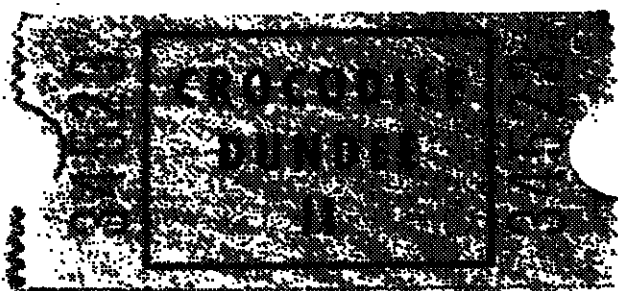
If the 19th century is what awaits us at the opening of the 21st, we should listen once again to Lord Acton, who described with extraordinarily prophetic insight the errors of nationalism which were to soak the 20th century with so much blood: "A great democracy must either sacrifice self-government to unity or preserve it by federalism. The coexistence of several nations under the same State is a test, as well as the best security of its freedom. It is also one of the chief instruments of civilisation."

"The combination of different nations in one State is as necessary a condition of civilized life as the combination of men in society... A State which is incompetent to satisfy different races condemns itself; a State which labours to neutralize, to absorb, or to expel them is destitute of the chief basis of self-government. The theory of nationality, then, is a retrograde step in history."

Pierre Trudeau headed Canada's Liberal government (with one brief break) from 1968 to 1984.

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The thunder of
hooves, the knock of
wood on wood, a
glimpse of the
royals at play: the
polo set is opening
up its boundaries,
says Rupert Morris

The thrill of polo stays with you a long time. In his ninetieth year, when a walk round his Dorset garden is akin to a route march, Colonel Lovell Payne leans lightly on his stick and reflects: "When you play, it's like being a centaur. You feel that you are part of the horse, or the horse is part of you. It's the best game in the world."

Sixty-three years since Colonel Payne last played with the British army in India, there is the same enthusiasm in the faces of four boys from Millfield School as they come off the field, after retaining the '88 Cup at the expense of their elders from the Taunton Vale Polo Club.

"There's nothing like it," says a breathless James Gasson. The others smile or nod. Aged between 13 and 17, they have not been playing long, but already they are in polo's grip, and each dreams of turning professional one day.

Attitudes are not very different at Cowdray Park, where I have been watching the semi-professional team of People Skills International advance to the quarter-finals of the Royal Windsor Cup with a victory over the formidable Ellerston, owned by the Australian media tycoon Kerry Packer.

The People Skills team consists of Mike Rutherford, guitarist with Genesis and a polo novice with three years' experience; Martin Glue, known as "Stucky", a middle-ranking English professional; Owen Rinehart, a handsome American and one of the best players in the world; and Terry Hanlon, a grey-bearded figure known as the "voice of polo", because of his match commentary.

Things are buzzing in this Sussex field before the match. Grooms are busy in their respective camps, arranging the horses so the players can switch mounts between chukkas. Behind station-wagons or Range Rovers, players pull on their boots and adjust their gear. Eyes turn at the appearance of familiar figures: the blond hair and flashing smile of Howard Hipwood, England champion, who has lost most of his original front teeth to stray balls or mallets; the quiet swag of the South American stars, Carlos Gracida and Gonzalo Pires; the unmissable bulk of Kerry Packer, whose frame seems so unsuited to polo, but whose wealth and enthusiasm are rapidly transforming the English game.

The game begins, a medium-goal contest in which the combined handicaps of each team add up to 16 (the higher the handicap, the better the player). After two of the five chukkas, the Packer team is 5-2 up. There is much talk about the Ellerston horses, reputedly worth £20,000 each, and the impossibility of competing against such resources.

But this is not to be Mr Packer's day. Although Rutherford leaves the field after a fall clutching his guitar arm ("It's all right, I can still do the vocals"), the People Skills team, with Caroline Boyer on as substitute, wins by a penalty in extra time.

On the neighbouring field, Ellerston's high-goal team in



Blazing saddles: American professional Owen Rinehart, one of the world's best players, in the foreground for the People Skills International team, with Terry Hanlon, the "voice of polo", behind him (in black shirt)

which Packer plays (their combined handicaps add up to 22, the maximum in club polo) is beaten by the men of Hildon, where the mineral water comes from.

It is one of the peculiar traditions of polo that, even at the high-goal level, a team is built round a patron (pronounced in the French manner) who may be no kind of a player but must have a one-goal handicap. Packer of Ellerston and Norman Lobel of Hildon are their teams' respective patrons, footing the bills and suffering the abuse of their more skilled colleagues, who normally prefer them to stay as far away from the action as possible.

At medium-goal level Rutherford, who has advanced from minus two to a 0-goal handicap, is the patron of the eponymous management training company. The annual cost of running a medium-goal side is well into six figures; a high-goal team would cost at least £25,000.

For the professionals, Glue and Rinehart, perspectives are different. Both worked their way up from grooming duties. As a mid-dling player, Glue earns little more than the average county cricketer, but hopes that in the increasingly competitive polo market he could become a valuable high-goal player off his relatively modest handicap.

"Five years ago, there were no more than 10 high-goal teams in the country, of which only four or



Kerry Packer: he is transforming the English game

five were really competitive. Now there are 22 teams, with at least 12 patrons who go out expecting to win." This means that men such as Rinehart can ask a lot for their services. It does not mean, as Hanlon likes to point out, that everyone in the polo world is rich. "There are the patrons, then a few top players, then a lot of poor people like me," he says, only half-joking. What unites them all, from the humblest stable-girl earning less than £100 a week to the multi-

millionaires who make it possible, is the love of the game.

Unlike horse-racing, where winners not only collect six-figure sums in prize money, but can earn considerably more at stud, there are no financial rewards for the patrons, apart from the odd piece of silverware.

"In pure business terms, I don't think you can say we get a lot of return on our money," Peter Patten, managing director of People Skills International, says. "But we certainly get a lot of fun - much more than we used to get out of sponsoring motor-racing."

Last week Counts, the bankers, sponsored a day at Smith's Lawn, home of the Guards Polo Club in Windsor Great Park, when, for the fourth consecutive year, a team representing the Stock Exchange took on a Lloyds of London team which contained both Major Ronald Ferguson and the Prince of Wales.

When the new rich of the Eighties began to hammer at the doors of the big three clubs, Cowdray, Cirencester and the Guards, things had to change. But all the clubs, to a greater or lesser extent, maintain a degree of exclusivity in their membership.

In the best tradition of those denied entry by the establishment, Brian Morrison, a pop tycoon, set up his own club next door. The Royal Berkshire, as it is generally known (it has no royal endorsement, but is in the royal county of Berkshire), was carved out of the

old Ascot racecourse and has a larger playing area than the Guards' ground in Windsor Great Park, more marquees, more acres of white-painted fencing, more luxurious stabling. Where the Guards has tradition and brass bands, the Royal Berks has helicopter landing areas. The Guards demands a £5,000 entry fee for membership, the Royal Berkshire requires £15,000. When Major Ferguson fell out with both the tabloid press and the Guards Polo Club, there was a welcome close by. No one mentions money, of course. They just have it.

At Cowdray Park people note that in spite of Kerry Packer's Argentinian stars, his 150 new horses and his fleet of high-tech transport vehicles, he has yet to

win the prizes that matter. Way out in the sticks, at Taunton Vale Polo Club, the old army clique has given way to a new meritocracy. The team I watched losing to the schoolboys at Millfield (they did give them a four-goal start) consisted of a doctor, a builder, an estate agent, and a farmer.

Dr Richard Eve reckons it costs him less than £3,000 a year to keep two ponies, and play perhaps twice a week.

He keeps the ponies at home for most of the year, stabling them at the club for £40 a week during the season. Kevin James, a builder, says it costs him less than that because he buys the horses, often

failed hurdlers, at four or five years old, trains them and then sells them as "made" polo ponies. At £200 a year, membership of the club is half the cost of belonging to the hunt of the same name. There are now between 50 and 60 playing members, almost three times the number four years ago.

At the Royal Berkshire today, there is a one-off challenge match between Buenos Aires and the Rest of the World. Seats will be limited to a few thousand, and the polo will be of a very high standard. Some members may fly in from Switzerland.

The entertainment at the Guards Club this afternoon will hardly compare, but there will be a good turnout, as always, for the members' cocktail party.

WEEKENDING

BEL MOONEY



steam radio I hear Spouse Mark I, just as he is at home: the benign host, bawling the conversation about with wit and vigour. It pleases me that egotistical panellists can't get away with waffle now. You'd be amazed how many sneak in little prepared notes on

likely issues. Me, I spend a good few minutes after each programme working out the stunning riposte I'd have given to the "light" question - and go to bed happily smiling at my own wit. Loyahy does not demand that I sit glued to the repeat of AQ at Saturday lunchtime, but the meal does have to be dispatched in time for Any Answers, these days a phone-in. Now I'm tuning in to Spouse Mark II, properly more tolerant of the punters than he was of the panellists, and allowing his feelings to show only by a particularly right-tipped, "Well, that's one view", if the odd piece of crass ignorance or prejudice finds a few seconds' airtime. Sometimes I long for him to say: "Sir, do you realise that you have just uttered a piece of unadulterated crap?" in

the same level tones. Or I fantasise about phoning in to put them right - but there would have to be a pseudonym, and change of voice. So, if you hear a Beryl Higginbottom ringing from Bath with a broad Scouse accent, you will know who it is. Trouble is, he

would too. In any case, no answers seem clear to me now. My loyal Friday and Saturday stints by the radio leaves me bemused. How do they all know, these people? I can only assume they spend their weekends reading every newspaper and watching videotaped programmes on uplifting subjects, so great is their certainty. It occurs to me on Saturday afternoons (as I sit in my library surrounded by great literature which draws as much strength from doubt as conviction) that, far from being a term of abuse, "ludger and mudge" sums up the human condition. Or that "Up to a point, Lord Copper" is a piece of pure Zen.

Which brings me to the weekend's hard politics - my Sunday TV dinner: *On The Record*. There

I am, glued to the screen, my mother's sympathy tray of roast chicken on my lap, thinking that by now it's a miracle the crocodile graphics don't drive me as mad as Captain Hook. And on the screen is Spouse Mark III, much more intimidating, this one - especially since the Gorbachev interview, so that British ministers seem like minnows. Women sometimes ask: "What do you think when you see your husband on TV?" What do they expect: "Isn't he gorgeous - and he's mine..." Why doesn't he ask about the inherent contradiction between market forces and moral imperatives? All that. And sometimes, disloyally, I think that Beryl Higginbottom should write to the controller of BBC1 suggesting that *On The Record* should go out late on Sunday night - because then she could carouse at lunchtime.

Those kind friends ask why I don't use the video. The point about live broadcasting is the risk involved. Someone might use a rude word on AQ, and cause the Reithian ghost to rise; or my dream will come true. I will be watching *On The Record* when the tray will slip to the ground as, for the first time, I see Spouse Mark IV. He will grin at the Autocue, then blow a huge raspberry at the watching millions, and tap-dance joyously out of the studio - towards empty weekends. For, if it ever came to that, there'd be a lot of free time, that's for sure.

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Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Psst — know how to find a binder on the Sly?

LATE one evening the telephone in our lonely farmhouse rang. The air was still and the peace had tempted the bats out of the barn earlier than usual. High in a tree, our resident owl was warming up for a night's hooting. At the modern warbling of the telephone I dropped the muck-fork and sprinted from the farmyard to the house. "Hello," I gasped. If Hitchcock had been directing the scene that followed, he would have started the murmur of sinister music at this point.

"Mr Heiney? I think I have found you a horse-drawn binder," he blurted out, like a man who had been trying hard to keep a deadly secret, and had just failed. "I can't tell you where it is, but if you like I will take you there." He paused. "I have to warn you, it is a bit primitive." We agreed to meet at his cottage the following day, and, with a sense of adventure and conspiracy coursing through me, I went to bed.

To explain: it is all very well to try to work a farm using horses. But where do you get the tools? Horses are simple to buy, but horse-drawn ploughs, rakes, mowers, and hoes are not so easily come by. Those that have survived are either found rusting, beyond salvation, in the bottom of ditches, or else they have been tarted up and wastefully strewn around carparks. I have sunk to negotiating a bride off the wall of a tea-shop, but it is hardly a sound basis on which to equip a serious farming venture. So I rely on agents and spies to do the hunting. Every so often one of them will unearth a creak of gold; in this case, a binder.

A binder is a vital piece of equipment. Without it you cannot harvest your corn. It is an intricate and apparently incoherent assembly of wheels, pulleys, cogs and gears and is usually drawn by three horses. It cuts the corn, gathers it together, ties it in bundles and spits them out as sheaves. When the sheaves are stooked, or leaned upright against each other in sixes, you are left with a field out of any heavy Victorian oil painting called *Harvest Scene*.

My informant, a Mr Sly, is a

retired dealer in farm machinery and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the contents of every barn in coastal Suffolk. He promised, however, that this barn would be special. We sped down isolated winding lanes into what he called "bow and arrow" country, although we were never more than a few miles from the A12. We drew up outside a rambling, decayed Victorian farmhouse obscured by dense and undisciplined woodland coming almost up to the bedroom windows. Daylight showed through gaps in the roof, and, in the fields around, the hedges stood as high as trees.

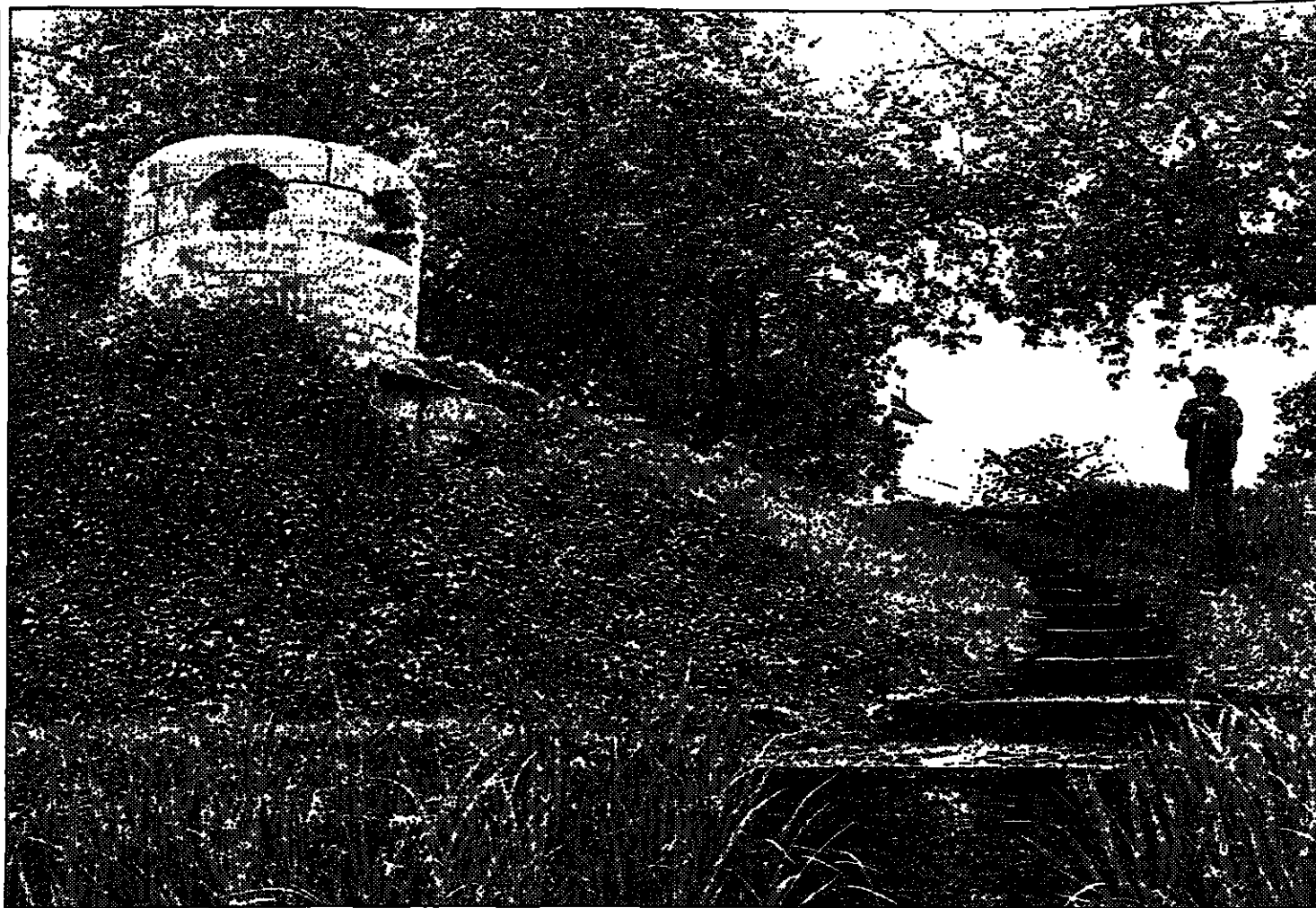
We fought our way to the back door and knocked. It opened an inch or two to reveal a stone sink fed by a lead pipe. Then the door opened fully and there stood Mr Palmer, 87 years old and bright of eye. He was wearing a heavy blue overcoat which, in its long life, had been ripped and carefully sewn together again, but with string.

"Do you want to cut with a binder do you?" he enquired, fixing me with a watery eye. "You want to go backwards?" I told him I believed that going backwards was the only way forwards. He said:

"he'd think about it. I sensed that he was wondering if I was going senile. I tried to glean from him some enthusiasm for his farming days, but his mind was set on life's pleasures rather than toils. "Clacton," he said, "Grand place, Clacton. I had some good times in Clacton. Do you know Clacton?"

We discussed Clacton as quickly as diplomacy allowed, and then I mentioned the binder again. "It's over there," he said. I looked where he was pointing, but saw only crumbling barns and the tumbling bricks of the old granary. "No, over there!" he insisted, and I followed the line of his stick until I spotted a few roof-tiles above the jungle of vegetation. I looked at my native guide. In his hands had appeared a machete, an oilcan and an adjustable spanner, and in his eyes a gleam of triumph.

A chilly breeze sprang up and I sensed many adventures yet to come before I had sight, let alone possession, of the treasure. Cue sinister music. Stay tuned for a further episode.



Midsummer's dream: Simon English with his solstice structure near Stratford-on-Avon. The site has already witnessed one offer of marriage

Shortly before noon on Thursday, the day of the summer solstice, Simon English descended into a tiny dungeon of his own making near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Once down the iron ladder, he made his 6ft-plus frame as comfortable as he could and stared intently at a spot in the centre of the floor.

At 1.08 and 19 seconds, British Summer Time, a pinpoint of light grew to the size of a silver sixpence before fading and, after the four minutes the sun takes to cross the meridian, Mr English emerged from below ground and headed for home.

Two years ago, he constructed a dungeon beneath a pulpit in a garden. Incorporating a strategically designed small gothic window, it was designed to serve as a friend's betrothal place. As that friend led his mystified love down into the darkness, at the appointed time on that particular solstice, the speck of light grew to illuminate a ring on the dungeon floor placed there for the proposal. Who says romance is dead?

Naturally, Mr English's friend had his offer of marriage accepted, which also made Mr English a happy man: now he is giving thought to a tree house in the garden for the couple's baby boy.

Mr English is an artist and landscape sculptor with a particular interest in the solstice. For midsummer's day last year, he sculpted a swan in flight from a field of white camomile flowers adjoining his dungeon. To create

Grand doodler casts light on his longest day

the bird above the banks of the River Avon, Mr English mowed a field by hand for four days and nights. His work at night was done by the light of the moon.

As a 40th birthday present, his wife and two young daughters arranged a flight in an aeroplane, which allowed Mr English a perfect view of his project.

His work earned him no money. "I wanted to do that swan for about four years," he says. "I kept on about it — I knew there was a swan in that field." The owner of the field, seeing Mr English's smile, guessed the worst and said: "I know what you've done. You've gone and done that bloody swan, haven't you?"

The artist, who is also an expert in stained glass, says: "It wasn't simply a pretty picture. The swan was a cross-shape with the field as wing space. There was an axis point that went right through the middle. It was mathematically balanced, with the swan bisecting the field as the summer solstice bisects."

Last year's solstice coincided with the full moon: the sun rose over the swan's beak and the full moon over its tail. In the sunshine, the swan's wings were tipped with gold, and the light of the moon turned them silver. And, says Mr English triumphantly, "overhead was the constellation Cygnus, the swan."

Mary Sheepshanks, a Yorkshire poet, was so impressed by the photograph of the swan that she sent a poem to Mr English pondering the camomile swan's transience.

*Did it preen its feathered flowers
For secret, solstice mission,
Who knows where?
Did it lift off
On whispered wings of silence,
Beak towards orange dawn,
And silver tail to moon?*

It did not. A search of the field shows the swan's "skeleton" still lying in a scrub of daisies, like the remains of an old flower bed taken over by lawn. Mr English does not waste time on memories, however — his eye is on his next project.

In the winter flood meadows overlooked by the site of the dungeon and pulpit project, Mr English yearns to etch a flight of ducks whose shapes would hold the last of the flood waters. The landowner has not yet been asked whether his fields can be used as the next "canvas" for the solstice-powered urges which the artist describes as "neurotic doodling".

In the Seventies, having com-

pleted a first class degree in fine arts at Leeds University, Mr English embarked on his "whole world sculpture". This project involved writing the word "Earth" over the earth with one letter for each continent. Individual characters were plotted and delineated by outlines made up of points 300 miles apart. The height of each character was about 1,200 miles.

As part of the massive work, Mr English has travelled to the computed points to erect cairns and explanatory plaques. So far, he has erected 10 in North and South America, where the letters "E" and "A" are lodged. Another 40 cairns are still to be erected. In Peru, he met Dr Maria Reiche, who is trying to solve the riddle of the most famous "doodles" of all, the Nazca lines left in the copper-brown desert by ancient South American Indians.

On a visit to Australia a few years ago to supervise the removal of a cathedral's stained glass windows for shipment and restoration, Mr English wished he had time to make a start on that country's letter "H". "But the sculpture is all part of the myth,"

For his "sketch" he travelled around England to engrave its name by erecting plaques in places to denote individual letters. He said he had received letters from people puzzled by inscriptions they had found on the edges of artillery ranges or motorway intersections.

The really wise do not puzzle. Knowing that Mr English is another manifestation in the tradition of talented British eccentrics. He went to school at Stowe which now has need of an old pupil who is in love with the landscape. Quarrying and gravel extraction are proposed nearby, threatening what is said to be the finest landscape in England. But first someone will have to remove the artist from the garden he is creating for his friend and patron, already living happily ever after as the result of an earlier folly.

SANDY BISP

Breeding

Farm a charmer llama

PAUL and Judy Rose were backpacking in Peru seven years ago when they first encountered llamas, used there for fibre farming and for donkey work, and decided it would be fun to own one eventually.

They now live in a 14th century Gloucestershire manor house and own 20 llamas and four alpacas — llamas' rarer, shaggier, smaller relatives.

Their first llama was a female which was, they were told, too young to be mated. "When I saw a shadowy figure in her shelter one morning, I thought it was a fox. It was a baby llama — she had been pregnant all along." Even more luckily, the baby was a female.

The Rose's mixed colour herd is now one of the largest in the country with its own stud llama and geldings. There are about two dozen serious breeders in Britain, with between 500 and 750 animals.

Mr Rose also intends to introduce llama-trekking tours of the Cotswolds. "Llamas in Peru are used for trekking and riding," he said. "They can be harnessed singly or in teams to pull little carts. Walking a llama is as pleasurable as walking a dog."

Llamas are light on their feet, so do not damage trails as horses and



Green pet: the adaptable llama

ponies would. Mr Rose sees llamas as perfect, conservation-orientated pets, and says he has never been spat at by one. But they are pricey, with males costing at least £1,000 and females £4,000.

"But you can keep six llamas on the same amount of grass needed for one horse," said Mr Rose (half an acre would be enough for two). "I put out a maize and protein supplement, should mine need it."

Llamas do not need stabling but will use a shelter occasionally and they do not need mucking out. "They select a corner of their paddock for use as a dung heap," Mr Rose explained. "It makes excellent manure and in Peru they burn it."

SANDY BISP

Mr Rose's alpacas and llamas can be seen at the Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, next weekend. More information about llamas can be obtained from him (0451 31191 during office hours), or from Mrs Pamela Walker, secretary of the British Camelid Association, Mapleshurst Farm, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6RB. Enclose a large stamped addressed envelope.

Feather report

No itch to twitch

AS I write, there are three birds in Britain that have never been seen before on these shores. Three "firsts" — and I shall not see a single one. And it just so happens that I do not give a monkey's.

Yes, I care a great deal about birds, always have. I am even writing a book about the damn things. But, pleasant though it is to hear about the tree swallow of the Scillies, the least tern of Suffolk and, of course, the ancient murrelet of Lundy, I am quite content for them to go on strutting their stuff without me.

Such a statement will draw gasps of horror from the twitchers. It is a confession that one is simply not serious about the business of birds. Twitchers are the people who love to chase such fantastic, impossible rarities as the ancient murrelet. They make lists, they collect; in short, they are driven by an acquisitive urge.

Each twitcher lists the birds he has seen in Britain. This is a "life list", and a new "lifer" sends him — twitchers are almost always men — into raptures. The word "twitcher" describes the state of near-screaming neurosis that overtakes such a person when a rarity is at hand, and he has yet to clap binoculars on it.

Ludicrous stories abound in the twitching world. There was a grey-cheeked thrush that flew the Atlantic and landed, exhausted, on a rock off the Scilly Isles. It was promptly listed by a handful of alert birders, and a second later it was washed into the sea by a wave and drowned. Another grey-cheeked thrush made the journey last autumn and was eaten by a ginger tom on St Mary's, also in the Scillies.

But not all bird people are twitchers. Many birders see the pursuit of extreme rarities as a world of illusion. The murrelet is from the Pacific Ocean: it is a sad, lost creature. Most extreme rarities are the result of catastrophic navigation, disastrous involve-



Voice in the wilderness: a nightjar, as captured by Thomas Berwick

ment with boats, or unavoidable trouble from appalling winds. Lundy Island is simply a personal disaster for the poor murrelet, no more.

My finest bird moment this year occurred at three o'clock on a May morning in the middle of a patch of blasted heathland on Minsmere bird reserve, in Suffolk.

At one moment, I could hear no fewer than four nightjars chirring dementedly to the night.

NIGHTJARS are British breeding birds, and any twitcher would tell you a nightjar is a "tart's tick" — a bird every twitcher has ticked every year of his twitching life. Nightjars are not rare. But they are seriously threatened by the loss of their heathland habitat. At Minsmere, the bird people are reclaiming and managing heathland to recreate the land a nightjar loves. And this year, nightjars are thriving.

The real business of birds is not about ticking rarities, or even about the protection of more glamorous species. Real birding is about the Great Chain: the interconnectedness of just about everything. The point is not just the nightjars. You must provide the

SIMON BARNES

THE SUNDAY TIMES WIMBLEDON

8 PAGE
EXTRA
THIS
SUNDAY

Live tennis from Eastbourne, Manchester & Wirral

Hana Mandlikova on Martina Navratilova

McEnroe — the inside story by his biographer

The psychology of Ivan Lendl

Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati — snapping at Steffi Graf's heels

Golden Greats by Rex Bellamy

The full Wimbledon draw for the men and women's singles

Who to watch out for at Wimbledon
IN THE SPORT SECTION TOMORROW

Mistress of the rifle line

EVERY Alison Hunt would be proud, even though she would be hard-pressed to shoot. At the age of 50, Britain's leading female marksman has a three-year list of customers. Most mornings, Hunt makes a 30-minute journey to the range in Somerset. She has shared a room with her father for almost 10 years. Hunt then a school principal, followed her father's footsteps. Miss Hunt's earliest involvement in the sport was around the gun: as her father should a commission. Hunt is a world-class marksman, having a favourite gun, a .308 Winchester, which she has used since she was 10. Whether working on a point or a 12-gauge, Hunt is the same. She has a sharp eye, a steady hand and a large number of trophies. She could have been a teacher, but her father's influence was too strong. Hunt is a member of the British Rifle Association and has won many trophies. She is a true marksman, and her father's influence is a testament to her skill. Hunt is a true marksman, and her father's influence is a testament to her skill. Hunt is a true marksman, and her father's influence is a testament to her skill.

WEEKEND LIVING: OUT OF TOWN

A house that needs people and parties

Home from home:
Anne Heseltine

Owning a house in London's Belgravia would be most people's idea of having arrived. But it was not Anne Heseltine's.

"The London house is just a house. This is home," she says of the Palladian residence not far from Oxford she shares with Michael, the politician, publisher and her husband. "This has been what we always aimed for. We always wanted a really lovely 18th century house, we wanted a farm, we wanted somewhere Michael could do his gardening and keep his ducks."

The house, built in 1760 by Michael Woodhull, was bought by the Heseltines 14 years ago, after they had sold their spacious London home in Wilton Crescent and acquired the slightly smaller four-storey Georgian residence in Belgravia as a pied-à-terre. Mrs Heseltine thinks they could manage with just a one-room flat in London, but her husband considers that moving would be too much of an upheaval, she says, and their daughter Alexandra, a student at London University, lives in the basement flat.

The country house's rococo interior and classical proportions give Mrs Heseltine the scope to collect the fine 18th-century furniture and paintings she admires. The 400-acre estate encouraged her husband to create an arbo-

"This has been what we always aimed for. It's the perfect house and always will be"

return, and gives the Hanoverian horses she has bred for the past five years room to stretch their legs.

"Michael's worked very hard at propagating the trees, exchanging letters and seeds with people all over the world," Mrs Heseltine says. "He wouldn't say this but I can — it's amazing what he's accomplished in such a short time. When we first came here he knew nothing about trees, but now they're his passion."

There is humour indoors. A Spitting Image caricature toy of Margaret Thatcher has been chewed up by Dominic the dachshund, and the prime minister's face also adorns a paper holder in the guest lavatory.

The Heseltines give each other presents for the house on birthdays and at Christmas — an urn from her to him, an 18th-century escutcheon from him to her. But they do not buy indiscriminately. "I know exactly what I want and am prepared to wait a long time to find it," Mrs Heseltine says.

She reminisces about the Monopoly Board trail of residences which has led them to the home of their dreams. "When we first got married we started off in Michael's bachelor flat, and then bought a rather run-down house in Notting Hill Gate. It had been a physiotherapy school and there were skeletons hanging up in the dining-room when we saw it. We were very happy there."

"Then Michael got more and



Home for the Heseltines: the family had lived at half a dozen different addresses before they found the country home they had always wanted, a 230-year-old Palladian house near Oxford

more committed to the House of Commons and never got home for dinner and our finances had improved, so we moved to the house in Wilton Crescent. When boundary reorganisation meant we were on the march again to a new constituency, Henley, we had to find somewhere in a great hurry because by this time we had all these encumbrances of children and dogs and woolly ponies. So we bought a house just outside Henley, always knowing it wasn't really what we wanted, and looked around until we found this which is, as far as we're concerned, the perfect house and always will be."

"There was a good deal of work to be done. We more or less furnished to the date of the house, which is a curious amalgam, since the outside is Palladian and the inside rococo. It needs heavy, early 18th-century furniture, not Regency, particularly upstairs where the rooms are oak-panelled. We put early walnut pieces up there."

"We don't really spend very much on the house in London," Mrs Heseltine says, "and if we get something nice for that house it tends to find its way down here."

We never eat a meal in that house — we have breakfast and then go our separate ways. Our elder daughter Annabel may fly in for breakfast and I occasionally have lunch with her, and our son Rupert lives in Fulham and works in the City so we don't see much of him except at weekends here. We don't entertain much in London, but we love having friends to stay here."

She says: "We've had a lot of parties here, it's that sort of house: the girls' 18th birthday, Michael's fiftieth birthday, my fiftieth birthday, as a family we enjoy parties. But we also use it for local things, fundraising for hospices, hunt lunches. This house needs to be full of people."

A recent dinner and auction held in aid of the Ashmolean Museum raised more than £30,000 for the fund.

It is a source of pleasure to Mrs Heseltine that her children choose to come home to the country at weekends, and she hopes Alexandra will continue to do so after her wedding to Tom Colborne-Malpas, who works for Sotheby's, in October. A top floor rumpus

room will be turned into a bedroom for the couple.

Alexandra looks set to comply. "This is home," she says. "Although my parents have bought us a house in Chelsea as a wedding present I hope I will still be able to come back here."

The Heseltines are not your average two-home family. In addition to a farm, which is owned by Mr Heseltine's Haymarket Publishing company, they have a holiday hideaway on Exmoor.

Mrs Heseltine went there recently for a "hen party", as she puts it, with five women friends. "We had a wonderful time. We sat around in the evening watching television in our dressing-gowns, with mugs of coffee. It sounds very childish, but we were all people who were quite pressurised normally: half-way through the week we were invited out to dinner and we didn't want to go."

Sometimes, she admits, she has found herself going to London for a rest. "Here, in the country, I work. When I go to London I don't have to do anything very much except having my hair done, taking in an exhibition, having lunch with a friend."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Country events

● **Family rambling day:** National event with more than over 150 walks taking place throughout England, Wales and Scotland — all specially designed for families with young children. Tel Ramblers Association, 0342-313 449, for more details.

● **Festival of gardening at midsummer:** The only weekend in the year when Hatfield House and all its gardens are open to the public at the same time. Floral displays, a country fair, arena events. Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire (0707-262 833). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Adult £3, child £1.20.

● **65th annual Middlesex show:** Major attractions include a mast-racing display by members of HMS Daedalus, heavy horse display team and parachute team. The Showground, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Today, tomorrow 9am-6.30pm. Adult £4, child 5-16 £1, under-fives free. Car park £1.50.

● **Jousting tournament:** Knights of Royal England perform feats of skill. Hever Castle, Hever, Edenbridge, Kent (0732 865224). Today, Gates open 11am, jousting 2pm, last admission 5pm. Adult £4 castle and garden, £2.70 garden (and jousting). Child £2 castle and garden, £1.60 garden.

● **Rev W Awdry weekend:** To celebrate the 45th anniversary of the publication of Mr Awdry's first railway book — *The Three Little Engines*. The author and his son Christopher, who now writes the stories himself, will be present. Light refreshments and lunches. Didcot Railway Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire (0235-817 200). Today, tomorrow 11am to 5pm. Adult £2.30, child £1.60.

● **Port of Brixham international trawler race:** Charity event at this picturesque port in which trawlers and crabbers race around Torbay for various good causes. Fete, food and live music. The Harbour, Brixham, Devon (08045 3221). Today from 10am. Programmes, for charity, 50p.

● **Wessex game and country fair:** Country pursuits, including clay pigeon, rifle shooting and archery competitions. Tomorrow only, terrier, lurcher, exemption and working dog show. Cricket St Thomas Wildlife Park, Cricket St Thomas, Dorset, Somerset (0460-30755). Today, tomorrow 9.30am-6pm. Adult £4, child £3, OAP £3.50.

● **17th century village exhibition:** Village life as it was in 1642. Local people in period costume go about their domestic, craft and farming tasks in reconstructed 17th century dwellings. Grange Farm, Howe Road, Gosport, Hampshire. Today, tomorrow, June 30-July 1, July 7-July 8, noon-5.30pm. Last admission and tour of village 3.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.75.

● **Ripley castle weekend:** Working steam fair today and tomorrow with engines and organs, steam threshing and sawing, vintage vehicles. This evening a fireworks and laser symphony concert. Ripley Castle, Ripley, North Yorkshire. Steam fair today, tomorrow 11am to 5pm. Adult £2.50, child and OAP £1, car park free. Gates for concert open at 7pm. Adult £10, child £5. Credit card bookings 0625 573 477.

● **Humberside rainbow festival:** Environmental and conservation groups, including Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. Also craft demonstrations, live music. Beverley Racecourse, Beverley, Humberside. Tomorrow 11am-6pm. Admission and car park free.

● **Fleet and district carnival week:** Entertainments begin with a children's procession around the town this afternoon. This evening a fireworks display and gala night with bands and a children's show. Tomorrow, a craft fair and, in the evening, songs of praise. The Views Meadows, Fleet, Hampshire. Today, tomorrow.

● **Pestalozzi international children's village open day:** Family entertainment with a Gurkha band, pipes and drums and dance groups. Pestalozzi Village, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex (0424-87044). Tomorrow 1pm-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

● **Hardy 1990 events:** Celebrations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Thomas Hardy's

birth continue with, today, a midsummer day of dance at Fontwell Magna, carnival and Victorian street fair in Dorchester and, on both days, a festival in Beaminstor.

Dorset, various venues. Information from tourist information centres.

NEXT WEEK

● **The Knole festival:** Monday, the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble. Tuesday, the English Players in two comic operas. Wednesday, the Sackville Singers. Thursday, the grand finale with the Band of the Royal Engineers and fireworks. Knole, Sevenoaks, Kent. First three concerts 8pm, final concert 8.30pm. Tickets £7.50-£11 adults, reductions for children. Box office 0892 890651.

● **Three spires festival:** A celebration of the arts in Cornwall — classical music, art exhibitions and theatres. Truro Cathedral, High Cross, Truro, Cornwall (0872 863346). Mon-Sun.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Originals: Alison Hunt, gun engraver

Mistress of the rifle line

EVERY Alison Hunt gun is highly prized, even though Miss Hunt would be hard-pressed to fire a shot. At the age of 25, she is Britain's leading female gun engraver with a three-year waiting list of customers.

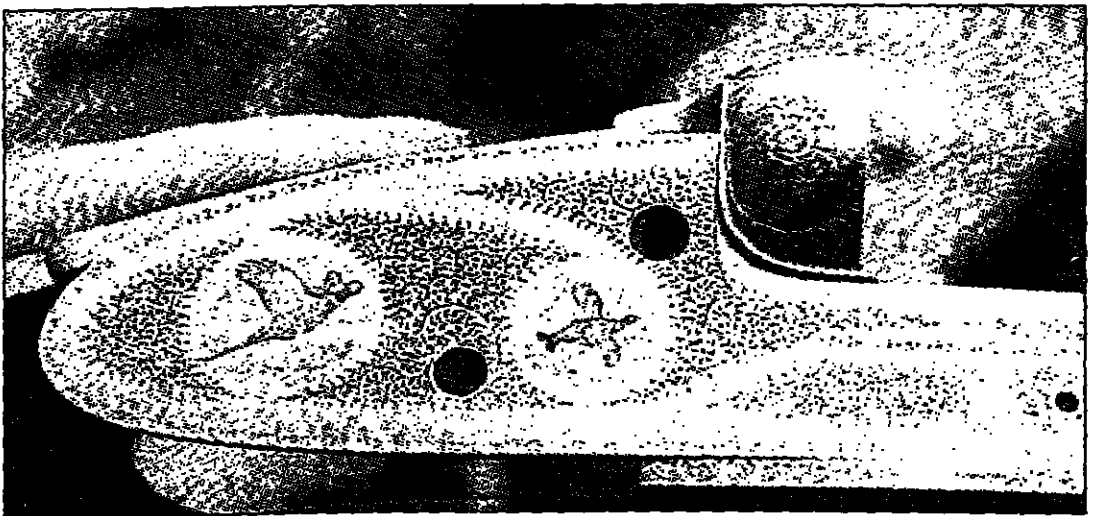
Most mornings Miss Hunt makes a 20-minute walk across Weybridge, in Surrey, to work alongside her father Ken. They have shared a rooftop workshop for almost 10 years since Miss Hunt, then a schoolgirl, decided to follow her father's craft, as her brother Marcus did before her.

Miss Hunt's earliest work involved pieces of decorative scroll around the pins, as screws are called in the gun trade. Now, should a commission require, she can handle the difficult task of tracing a favourite gun dog in gold inlay at the bottom of the action of a gun.

Whether working on a small pistol or a 12-bore shotgun, her basic tools are the same: a swivel-ball vice to hold individual gun parts and large numbers of wick-edly sharp, stubby "gravers".

She could have had no better teacher than her father. Since his apprenticeship at James Purdey & Sons, in Soho, in the early Fifties, Mr Hunt has engraved guns for some of the world's wealthiest families. He engraved designs by Carl Toms, the designer of Kensington Palace, on a pair of guns presented by the Queen to Lord Snowden for his marriage to Princess Margaret in 1960.

Skilfully engraved guns make good heirloom investments. In 1902, the London gun manufacturer John Rigby & Co delivered a .577 double-barrel rifle for £64.



Gun trade: Alison Hunt at work and, top, an example of her craft

A Rigby .577 double-barrel rifle now would cost £30,000. Cost of special engraving or gold work would be added to the price.

John Rigby & Co's 1990 catalogue warns prospective customers that they face a three-year wait for a Ken Hunt engraving. Collectors accustomed to seeing Mr Hunt's works fetch prices of up to £120,000 at Christie's and Sotheby's auctions are now becoming more aware of his

daughter's considerable skills. Miss Hunt has already given demonstrations of her work in the United States. She recalls a visit to a Beverly Hills mansion: "The owner showed me into a rich, wood-panelled room, thickly carpeted, but puzzlingly empty. Then he pressed a code mechanism and the doors closed shut behind us while the panelled walls opened upwards to reveal absolutely amazing gun cabinet displays."

Miss Hunt accepts work through the major gun manufacturers. Basic scroll work is included in the price of a rifle. However, depending on the commission and the extent of the work, an engraving of a specific game scene could add up to £5,000 to the price of a gun.

SANDY BISP

He's been blind for 12 years

Your £10 will restore his sight in 10 minutes

In India, Africa and other developing countries there are thousands of old people like him. He suffers from cataracts of both eyes. He is blind and totally dependent on others. But he doesn't have to be. For as little as £10, he can have the ten minute operation he needs which will give him back his sight. You can give the gift of sight by giving just £10.

Help the Aged, St. James's Walk, London EC1R 0BS.

I want to give the gift of sight

☐ £5.00 (Shares the cost of a cataract operation)

☐ £10.00 (Pays for a cataract operation to restore sight in both eyes)

☐ £20.00 (Pays for cataract operations to restore sight for two people in both their eyes)

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Assets

Young and on their way to success

The world's largest public show of graduating design talent, the New Designers' Exhibition, which opens next month at The Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, will be the most comprehensive in its seven-year history, expanding for the first time into fashion, jewellery and graphics, alongside textiles, furniture, ceramics, glass, silver, industrial and product design.

As well as providing an opportunity to view and buy the latest designs, the exhibition aims to create links between designers and industry and help graduates find jobs or gain commissions.

The organiser, Peta Levi, says: "More than 700 of Britain's most talented designers, selected by their colleges and the Chartered Society of Designers, are exhibiting their work, which now covers all the design disciplines. Visitors will include international manufacturers, retailers, architects, specifiers and stylists." Typifying the positive approach from the participating colleges is Paul Callaghan,

head of Manchester Polytechnic's industrial design department. He says: "Industrial design is becoming respectable and attracting highly-qualified candidates."

Mr Callaghan's final year students have come up with some innovative yet practical ideas including a paper re-cycling machine for small offices, an inner-city moped, and a breakfast unit for simultaneously preparing coffee, toast and eggs.

Ben Fincus, one of the final-year students showing and selling his work at the exhibition, intends to set up his own business, initially from home until he can afford to rent office or studio space, after graduating. He has just completed a two-year furniture design course at Parnham Trust in Dorset, following a foundation course at Epsom School of Art & Design. As part of the course he has designed and made a knock-down display system, a low table in concrete, glass, steel and wood, some unusual mirrors, lavatory-paper holders, and a colourful folding chair that hangs on the wall.

"I'm interested in using a combination of ordinary materials, like perforated steel, in a classy way," he says. "I'm not into tropical woods. I prefer using

British timber from sustainable sources and adding colour, stain or lacquer to bring it to life." His mirrors cost £85, lavatory-paper holders, £35, low table, about £1,000, and folding chair, £630.

Moy Mackay is exhibiting examples of her painted wooden flooring. She has completed a four-year course in printed textiles at Glasgow School of Art, following a year's foundation course at Manchester Polytechnic.

"The flooring is made in panels and is suitable for domestic and commercial use," she says. "My influences are many and varied, including a trip to Russia, and the folk art of gypsy caravans."

Ms Mackay hopes to set up in a studio on her own in the Borders. She sells her hand-painted and hand-printed fabrics from £50 a metre, and will accept flooring commissions which cost from £25 for each decorated tile (less for plain tiles) and £50 a metre for decorated skirting.

Miranda Watkins completes her four-year jewellery course at the Middlesex Polytechnic this summer. She specialises in big, bold designs — "I don't like doing things by halves" — and says she "wanted to make quite special jewellery, catwalk pieces, rather than the more watered-down styles you generally find on sale."

"I take my influences from all sorts of sources — modern architecture, electrical machinery, aircraft and engine parts — and usually work in steel, brass, nickel and Perspex. I prefer their rawness to silver, although I have also worked in that. But what is important is the idea — not the value of the material. I also use anodised aluminium which is ideal because it is lightweight and can be coloured."

Ms Watkins's over-sized bracelets cost from £250, while brooches start at £150.

● The New Designers Exhibition runs from July 11-14 at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington Green, N1 (071-359 3535). ● Ben Fincus, 2 University Mansions, Lower Richmond Road, Putney, SW15 1EP (081-789 8533). ● Moy Mackay, Routhenhill, Faldam, Faldham, Midlothian EH37 5SU. ● Miranda Watkins, Electrum Gallery, 21 South Molton Street, W1Y 1DD (071-629 6325).

● The aim is to create links between designers and industry



Big and bold: "I don't like doing things by halves," says Miranda Watkins, a jewellery designer who wants to specialise in catwalk pieces



Avant-garde: furniture designer Ben Fincus and his folding chair



Painted floors: artist Moy Mackay with work she plans to exhibit

& Briefly

Making a false impression

BARBARA Bush has given the world one distinctive look to copy. The three-strand pearl necklace, unapologetically fake, has become her trademark.

Ken Lane, the costume jeweller who made Mrs Bush's original style-setter, has been doing a brisk business in identical ones from his shop in London's South Molton Street — at £120 each. Pictures of the president's wife adorn the shop. For the less bold or less old, chokers with strands of smaller faux pearls are available.

But for those who wouldn't be seen dead without the real thing, advice on cleaning and caring for pearls is available at Mappin & Webb's Beauty of Pearls exhibition at their flagship store, 170 Regent Street, London W1, until next Saturday.

Top Marks

SO POPULAR have Marks & Spencer's washed silk shirts proved this season that the company intends to continue them into the autumn, introducing some new colours. The long-sleeved, tailored shirts with concealed button closing which have been walking out of major branches at £39.95 each in chocolate brown, deep purple and mint green will be continued in navy, mauve and green for autumn.

Small mercies

EVEN under a Christopher Robin cotton sunhat and playing in the shade of a parasol, a baby's skin needs protection from the sun. Estée Lauder Baby Block is a new waterproof sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 20+ (more than 30 according to the American method of calculation) in a gentle cream priced £15 for a 125ml tube. Uvistat Baby Sun, also new, has a factor of 22 in a formulation specifically designed for baby-fine skin and costs £4.99 for a 50g tube.

CC bon

FITTED linen jackets, painted straw hats and other attractively styled and priced pieces are to be found in the first Collier Campbell summer fashion collection. The distinctive prints of the designing sisters Susan Collier and Sarah Campbell work beautifully on, either silk or linen. The collection includes printed muslin shirts (£70), fitted linen jackets (£85) and soft silk ensembles (£145). As well as fashions, bedlinens and textiles the shop, at 45 Conduit Street, W1, sells Collier Campbell's own range of aromatherapy oils and soaps and unusual glassware and household items. The shop also serves as an exhibition area for the work of other designers.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Gems: Major Mustard, Children's Entertainer

Condimentia rules

FAMILY is a key word to Mike Frost, also known as Major Mustard of Major Mustard's Travelling Show. Indeed, he is an entertainer because his family has produced entertainers for five generations. He likes to think of his entertainment as "family shows", rather than merely "children's entertainment", since they have appealed to audiences at birthday parties and bostals, church halls and colleges from Birmingham to Peking.

Nothing pleased him more than when three generations of his own family (his father, a jazz musician, playing the accordion, himself the melodeon and Ellen, his ten-year-old daughter, the tambourine) performed together to an audience that spanned at least as many generations.

But now his father has had a stroke, and can no longer accompany him. And his wife, Caz — a fully fledged "Punch and Judy Professor" who used to do the shows with baby Alice, now aged six, in a pack on her back — is separated from him and living nearby. Yet the sense of family is still vital to the enduring success of his act.

Mr Frost's roots are deep in the Midlands, where two of his great-grandfathers were actors, one at the very first Shakespeare theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. His base is in Birmingham, although his puppet workshops and performances are in great demand from Hong Kong (where he is frequently invited by the Traditional Music Society) to Hammersmith (where he performs regularly at the Lyric Theatre). His home is crammed with puppets, masks and musical instruments, and the memorabilia of more than one lifetime as a travelling player.

Like his shows, the workshops appeal to all ages. He first presents a slick and energetic performance, then dissects it, shows how to make the puppets, demonstrates diverse puppeteering techniques and lets his audience put on a show themselves.

Wherever he travels, even if he cannot bring his 22ft long Mercedes van with its colourful paintings of Major Mustard (done by a friend) and puppet stages of all sizes and shapes, he takes his dancing dolls, wooden puppets which upstage jerkily on a board. "Ellen's learning to operate them now," he says proudly.

Major Mustard is not, he insists, a Sergeant Pepper-derivative. But



How I won the war: Major Mustard — or Mike Frost — takes to the road

this is hard to believe, particularly as Mr Frost himself, even without the military uniform, looks like a refugee from the Lonely Hearts Club Band and, at 43, is just the right age to have been influenced by it.

Major Mustard has now been travelling for 15 years, and occasionally wears a frock coat and clogs as a change from the restrictive military uniform which, Mr Frost admits, is getting a bit tight for all the energetic gesticulating he does.

The clogs have come in useful for threatening teenage thugs who, at least once, came too close for comfort — but usually his audiences are entranced. Although he is happy to perform for moderately sized birthday parties he feels that to justify his approxi-

mately £100 performance fee (plus travelling expenses) he should work a larger audience.

He has taken his act to Palestine, where he was funded by the British Council "to help bring culture to the children of the occupied territories" — and to a Vietnamese boat people refugee camp in Hong Kong. He keeps seven shows in his repertoire, all of them originals, and most written in collaboration with Caz.

You may have seen him this week on Channel 4's *Go for It*, working with handicapped children, and he will be doing a week's residency in August at the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon, south-west London.

You can also reach him on 021-426 4329.

VICTORIA MCKEE



The old 5 pence coin. Diameter 23.5mm. Weight 5.65g.

The new 5 pence coin. Diameter 18.4mm. Weight 3.25g.

From June 27th you'll find a small change in your small change

Soon you may notice the new 5 pence coin in your small change. This smaller and lighter coin is the result of a great deal of research and consultation with the public.

However, the old 5 pence coin won't disappear overnight — it will be legal tender until December 31st 1990.

The new 5 pence coin. A new convenient size.



سكنا من الذهب

WEEKEND LIVING: IN TOWN

Changing face

Brighton cleans up its act

There was a time when all that was needed to work in conservation was a scholar's mind or a craftsman's eye. Now, as staff in charge of the £10 million restoration of Brighton's Royal Pavilion are acutely aware, you also require the tact of a diplomat and the guile of a politician. In four years, when the last brushstroke has been made, the last gilding burnished and the project is finished, the royal palace will come under the sort of scrutiny it has not experienced for more than 150 years.

The restorers' work will be viewed by scholars and historians eager to point out inaccuracies, and politicians ready to criticise extravagance. To these can be added a public never so sensitive to what is being done to our ancient buildings and a tourist industry which sees the past as an exploitable resource.

Next month the pavilion will be stripped of the cocoon of blue plastic which has encased it for the past 10 years and on emergence as George IV saw it upon completion in 1823. The pavilion's audacious domed structure presented problems even during its creation. The relationship between the architect John Nash and his patron became strained when it was discovered that Nash's patent stucco became permeable when dry, which meant it had to be sheathed in expensive copper. Later damp salt air led to the corrosion of the roof's iron framework and the decay of its timbers. In the restoration of the roof, beams have been fashioned from imported mature Douglas fir, and Bath stone, quarried from the same site chosen by Nash in 1815, used for the minarets, which replace glass fibre imitations dating from the late Sixties. Every section of the stone latticework is unique, and each section to be rebuilt required its own template.

But the quest for authenticity was not the only problem. The building's fragility meant that nothing could rest on it, leading to the creation of the first unsupported scaffolding structure in Europe. This soon became popular with thousands of stargazers which were only partly deterred by the introduction of alarms. It became a regular chore to remove acidic droppings and replace protective plastic sheeting.

Inside and out the aim has been to maintain the original where possible, and to reproduce as authentically as possible where it is not. To this end, in Queen Victoria's bedroom, which overlooks the pavilion gardens, walls have been knocked down, windows realigned and artist Gordon Grant has spent the past two years recreating its 18th century Chinese wallpaper, based on a remnant of the original. The paper's bright yellow ground might dazzle some visitors, but a deliberate decision was taken not to fake the effects of time. The four-poster bed being built in the pavilion workshop incorporates rare Cuban mahogany taken from 19th century furniture that was beyond repair. "Although nobody will see it, we will put back five reproductions of the original mattresses. In a building like the pavilion, the small details are important in creating an authentic interior," says Jessica Rutherford, the principal keeper.

In the music room, severely damaged by fire in 1975, three new chimneypieces will be carved from Italian marble following a study of the originals. One of which was moved to Buckingham Palace by Queen Victoria when the pavilion was sold to the Brighton Corporation in 1847. In 1974 the chimneypiece was replaced with a plaster imitation. Miss Rutherford is convinced the philosophy behind the pavilion's restoration is right, and will please not only scholars, but the public. She says: "One hopes the public will tire of plastic recreations of history."

The public will tire of plastic recreations of history

Although spending money on marble chimneypieces, gold inlay and hand-knotted carpets might be expected to raise the hackles of a Labour council which this year has had to cut £5 million from its initial budget and dip deep into its reserves, there is a consensus among local politicians that money used in restoring the pavilion will be well spent. Although 25 per cent of the cost of the structural restoration has come from grants from English Heritage, the rest has had to be found by Brighton's relatively small population of 170,000.

It could, however, be argued that the town benefits from its royal palace. Tourism is estimated to bring in about £350 million a year and to support 9,000 jobs. More than 300,000 visited the pavilion last year and generated income of £1 million, not only through entrance fees but also through sponsorship and franchise agreements with New York manufacturers whose reproductions of pavilion fixtures grace many a Manhattan apartment.

ROBERT DUNKLEY



Back in London: skipper Jan Miles and the new Pride of Baltimore II

project, and were ready to put the sad story behind them. But the people of the city would not let them accept defeat. Public opinion clamoured for a second Pride to be built. A disc jockey on a local rock music radio station invited listeners to donate a dollar to the fund to build a replacement (no such fund existed), and offered to match every dollar raised with a dollar from the station.

Contributions of more than \$60,000 poured in, and the pressure to build a second Pride became irresistible. Baltimore's second clipper was launched in 1988, and last week Pride of Baltimore II slipped quietly into the port of London.

The captain of the 100ft ship is the same man who brought the first Pride up the Thames five years ago. Jan Miles was home on leave when the schooner sailed on her final voyage, and Armin Elaeffer, his counterpart skipper, went down with his ship when a 70mph squall capsized her in just 15 seconds.

"It was the kind of freak gust which would lay any sailing boat flat," Mr Miles says. "The boat had a high stability for a traditional vessel. She could tip over 87 degrees and still recover. The new one is even more stable, with a range of stability up to 95 to 100 degrees. She is no longer an exact copy of 19th century methods of construction. She is more massively built, and subdivided into four watertight compartments, to reduce the danger of swamping."

GEORGE HILL

The Pride of Baltimore II will be in St Katharine's Dock, London, until Tuesday. Today and tomorrow she will be on show to the public, free, from noon to 5pm.

Events in town

● Leeds festival: The two-week festival gets fully underway today. Lord Mayor's parade throughout the town today from 1.30pm and a fun day in Roundhay Park tomorrow from 11am. Neighbouring towns including Morley, Pudsey, Otley and Weirby have their own celebrations. Today until July 8. Festival hotline Tel (0532-431 800).

● The art of Legs: Major touring exhibition has its only Scottish airing in Edinburgh. City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh (031-225 2424). Until July 14. Mon to Sat 10am-6pm.

● Exeter festival: Tonight, 8pm, African dances from villages in Africa never before seen in Europe. Tomorrow 2pm, a children's matinee by Awatins, with pan pipes and other exotic South American instruments. At 8pm, music of the Andes. Exeter and Devon Arts Centre, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. Box office (0392-425 229). Tickets today adult £7, child £5. Tomorrow matinee adult £4, child £2. Evening adult £6, child £4.

● Shoreditch festival: Hoxton Carnival Marching band - outdoor procession with music, singing, dancing, puppets and drama - from 1.45pm. Judo and helicopter displays, stunt kites, children's entertainments, music. Food and beer tents. Shoreditch Park, Bridport Place, London N1. Tomorrow 11am-9.30pm. Free.

● Brighton antiques and period furnishings show: Room settings in a town house and a country cottage, specialist stands and an art gallery.

The Corn Exchange, Brighton. Today, tomorrow 11am-6pm.

● Rhythmic gymnastics championships for schools: All 185 participants come from schools throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledington Road, London SE19 (081-778 0131). Today, 11am. admission.

● London walkathon: Ten-mile family walk in aid of a proposed new Guy's Hospital laboratory for children with cerebral palsy. Southwark Park to Hyde Park via the City of London. Tomorrow. Register 8am-10am Southwark Park. Walkathon hot line (071-231 2220).

NEXT WEEK

● High summer in Highgate: Run with the Hash House Harriers followed by "recovery" refreshment at a local pub. Monday, 7pm start from High Tube Station, Archway Rd, London N6.

● Street entertainment: Comedians, jugglers, stilt walkers, magicians and bands - provide lunchtime entertainment. Broadgate Arena, 3 Broadgate, London EC2 (071-588 6565) Mon-Fri 12.30-2pm. Free.

● Royal Norfolk show: Classes in livestock, horticultural and agricultural displays and exhibitions. Licensed bars. The Showground, Dereham Road, Norwich, Norfolk (0603-748 931). Wed, Thurs, Fri 8am-8pm. Adult £5, child £1.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Walk

Vibes from Hampton

WALKING along the Middlesex side of the Thames one realises how much and how little London has changed. For here, the Victorian and Thirties houses are deeparks, villages, country houses and villas. At various points the River Thames flows majestically by, alive with small boats.

Start the walk at Hampton Court station, cross the river and, if you have time, visit the great palace itself, with its Christopher Wren additions and famous maze. Skirt the park walls to turn left into Bushy Park, where deer still graze. Out of the north gates, turn left and follow the road round to Park Road, then turn right into Teddington High Street. The small, 16th century and Georgian parish church at the end of the street contrasts oddly with the towering St Albans church of 1889 opposite, which is incomplete and derelict.

Turn left up Twickenham Road, left down Waldegrave Park and then right into Waldegrave Road, to pass Strawberry Hill, which was turned by Horace Walpole into a medieval battlemented mansion, an early piece of Gothic revivalism dating from the 1750s. Beyond this is the river and St Catherine's Convent, a tumpish Neo-Tudor pile on the site of Alexander Pope's riverside villa. Continue along Cross Deep, then right into King Street and Church Street in the heart of Twickenham,



with its excellent church dating back to 1714.

Fine villas front the river, and, beyond the Orleans House Gallery (1720), lies Marble Hill park with the stuccoed villa built in the 1720s by a mistress of George II. On the west side of the park, behind the stables, is Montpelier Row, a superb terrace of 1720s townhouses.

Leave the park on Richmond Road, soon turning left to walk along Willoughby Road and Ducks Walk, then across Twickenham bridge and on to the Surrey bank. Turn left up Old Palace Lane past Sir Robert Taylor's stone Agill House of 1757, a merchant banker's summer villa, and into Richmond, passing the green and the remains of the Tudor royal palace on the way, and then to the station.

MARTIN ANDREW

Obsessions: John Swannell

Waist not, want not



John Swannell: the velvet touch

Usually he will wear a waistcoat to death, without a jacket, so he keeps less than a dozen in his wardrobe at any one time.

He never takes his waistcoat off, even in the most energetic shoots on the hottest days of summer: "I'm very English," he says. He likes to wear it with corduroy trousers and his hallmark blue and

white striped shirts, made by Bowring Arundel in Savile Row. He likes to wear boots, but they are likely to be women's boots, from Russell & Bromley, since he has small feet and finds them more comfortable.

His suits, from Welsh and Jeffries, also of Savile Row, are saved for special occasions, and always without a matching waistcoat, "so I don't look like an estate agent. I like to wear them with a polkadot waistcoat, and I like them to look lived-in."

Occasionally he'll find a 19th century gentleman's jacket that appeals to him. "At my height I'd be swamped by the square-cut Armani look," he believes. Shorter, at 5ft 7in, than most of his models, Mr Swannell looks slim enough, but confesses to a weakness for cordon bleu cooking which makes him gain weight. "A well-fitting waistcoat will hold you in," he says, and expresses disdain for the ones that wrinkle and gap around protruding stomachs.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Down to the sea again...

WHEN the clipper schooner Pride of Baltimore was sunk by a freak squall in 1986, with the loss of four of her crew, it seemed that a unique experiment in community enterprise had come to a tragic end. The nine-year-old ship had been on the last lap of a transatlantic voyage back to her home port on Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, after a 12-month goodwill tour of Europe.

Owned by the state of Maryland and operated by a foundation supported by public and private funds, the ship had been designed as an exact replica of the fast privateers which helped the US to harass Britain's trade-routes in the war of 1812.

The Baltimore clippers were contemporary with mountainous sailing battleships, like Nelson's Victory, but radically unlike them. They were slim and lightly built, with immense masts and sails apparently tailored for vessels three times their size. They were usually able to outstrip their unwieldy pursuers without effort. Even when compared with modern racing yachts, the type is unmistakably a machine built for speed and daring exploits. When the 1986 disaster happened, some yachtsmen were inclined to say: "I told you so," and to mutter that such rakish-looking craft could not hope to attain modern standards of safety.

The city fathers of Baltimore grieved for the sudden end of the

Sarah Jane Checkland reports on the coin sale that came up heads for Sotheby's

Hunt turns his silver into gold

Sotheby's took a risk using Nelson Bunker Hunt to promote an important collection of Greek and Roman coins it last week. He is the Texan oil billionaire who lost a fortune trying to corner the silver market in 1979.

Mr Hunt's bulk buying, undertaken with his brothers, raised the price of bullion from \$6 (£3.52) an ounce to \$50. At that time, he was persuaded by the dealer and fellow racehorse owner, Bruce McNall, to sink a further fortune into almost 900 top quality antique coins, thus creating a bubble in this market, too.

In 1980, Mr Hunt met his Waterloo and his various fortunes fell like so many soldiers. Then, in 1988, a jury concluded that the brothers had conspired with the Saudi Arabians to corner the silver market, and armies of investors in silver rose up to sue him.

This week, the coin auction which was the inevitable consequence was expected to be less of a prestige event than an amusing trip to the pawnbrokers, the meagre proceeds being swept up by the American tax man. How wrong we were. Sotheby's pulled out the stops, producing two glossy catalogues and suggesting low estimates which were, as one dealer put it, "at prices they were confident people wouldn't resist".

The auction house flew the Hunt brothers on a promotional tour around the world, giving journalists with glasses of Coca-Cola on silver silver and letting Nelson loose with his platitudes on the vagaries of life, such as "you have to take the bitter with the sweet".

Somehow, despite the fact that Mr Hunt displayed little love or knowledge of the coins, which he

had kept stored away, miser-like, in a bank vault, the tactics worked. On Tuesday night, dealers watched in amazement as the auction record for an ancient coin was broken three times in succession. First came the Decadrachm of Agrigento, celebrating the victory of a youth from that city in an Olympic Games chariot race in 412 BC, and the second appearance for such a coin at auction this century. "A masterpiece of classical art," the catalogue thundered, and the image of the chariot is, indeed, striking, having a spontaneity and force not unlike some contemporary art.

Despite the after-effects of zealous overcleaning and areas of corrosion, it fetched \$572,000 (£332,558) against an estimate of \$250,000 to \$350,000. As with all the sales, the buyer was "strictly anonymous".

Next came an Athenian

decadrachm, celebrating the final defeat of the Persian king Xerxes, with an exquisite head of Athena on one side and an owl and olive branch on the other. This sold for \$528,000 (£306,977), on its upper estimate.

Finally, the "Ides of March" denarius, struck by Brutus after he killed Caesar, (£58,235) despite the consensus that it was inferior to another example which fetched a record of \$75,000 two years ago in Los Angeles. After an absence of some years, therefore, it appeared the speculators were back.

"It was absurd. Prices went through the roof," says John Pett from Spink & Son, the British coin dealers and auctioneers. "Sotheby's was extremely successful in convincing people to throw away the rule book and bid."

Now the flip-side of the story.



Heading for a record: the Athenian decadrachm, celebrating the defeat of the Persian king Xerxes, (£306,977)

The Agrigento Decadrachm cost Hunt \$1 million when he bought it. Indeed, as Tom Eden, Sotheby's antique coins expert, says: "Most of the coins were bought privately, and money was no object." Last week's auction records must, therefore, be put into this context. The sale total was less than that paid by Mr Hunt during his five-year collecting spree.

Ever since Mr Hunt dabbled in ancient coins, the market, spanning 2,000 years of history, has been under a cloud. "Speculators caused great damage from which the market has not recovered," said one dealer. A ripple effect has been to turn what was an innocuous hobby enjoyed by parsons and civil servants into a speculative pursuit. "The investors of the late 1970s have driven the old collectors away," says Patrick Finn, of Spink.

Depressing phenomena which have emerged include "slabbing", whereby collectors buy a stack of a given coin type, neatly processed into a plastic wallet. Another development has been the army of treasure hunters with metal detectors hoping to make a mint from Saxon and Norman coins down by the Thames.

Nelson Bunker Hunt had apparently planned to hoard his collection of coins in a bank vault. The hope after last week's sale is that he has inadvertently done the market a good turn, re-establishing it as a strong one. This view appeared to be supported by the two-day 90th anniversary sale of British coins in London by Glendinning's, the coin auction house, which totalled £334,000, and was a near sell-out.

The fear is that, due to

Sotheby's bold tactics, the auctioneers have leap-frogged over those with market know-how, in order to seduce investors. According to one expert, buyers such as Michel Bendenoun, of Tradart (an investment company from Zurich and Brussels), apparently had "carte blanche" to spend what they liked on behalf of the investors. They don't get any money unless they buy.

When asked whether he will be adjusting his prices upwards after last week's results, Mr Pett of Spink's ancient coin department said: "I doubt it. The general feeling is not that we are at the beginning of a boom. I would prefer to see more of the professionals, or dealers, making the prices rather than the investors." That sort of comment is likely to cause last week's speculators to have second thoughts about their extravagance.

Preview

SATURDAY June 23

Three scrappy discoveries require buyers with cash and soldering irons at Phillips's classic car sale. Wrecks include a 1913 Morris Oxford (£6,000 to £10,000) and a 1907 Sizair Naudin (£5,000 to £8,000). Phillips, Chelsea Harbour, 2pm.

MONDAY June 25

All eyes on London for the Impressionist season. Christie's kicks off with two early works by Picasso, *Les Femmes d'Alger* (£4million to £6million), and a Rose period gouache of a saltimbanque or jester (£3million to £4million). There may be a record for *Boutique Fantastique*, by the British artist Ben Nicholson, whose prices have been rising dramatically lately. Christie's, 8 King Street SW1, 7pm.

TUESDAY June 26

Sotheby's turn at Impressionism, with a classic pastel by Degas, *Danceuses*, *Jupes saumon* (£4million to £6million), and Picasso's *Femme dans un Fauteuil* (£1 million), 7pm. Sotheby's prints sale includes Van Gogh's experimental lithograph of *The Potato Eaters*, a snip at £80,000 to £120,000, and Chagall's *Daphnis and Chloe* (£1.5 million to £2 million). 10am Tuesday and Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY June 27

Christie's South Kensington becomes an artistic dog's home at a sale devoted pictures of man's best friend. Prices include £700 for a head and shoulders portrait of Yank, a German Shepherd Dog and £4,000 for *Gone Away*, an inept hunting scene by William Woodhouse. 5pm. Minor Impressionists or "Mini Imps" as they are known in the trade, come up at Sotheby's, with many Japanese favourites, such as Bernard Buffet and Fontana. 10.30am. Sotheby's, Impressionist and modern drawings and watercolours auction includes a hitherto unknown, and utterly untypical collection of 12 drawings by the Austrian expressionist artist Egon Schiele (£8,000 to £10,000). The sale also features a recently discovered drawing by Gustav Klimt — the largest ever to come to auction, at 72in x 35in. Somewhat faint, it shows his famous morbid image *Die Drei Lebensalter*, a mother and child watched over by an old woman, all three enveloped in a shroud (£250,000 to £300,000). 2.30pm.

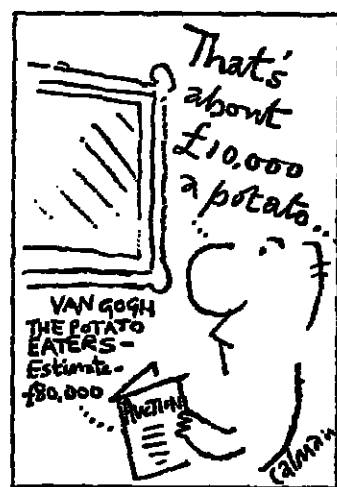
THURSDAY June 28

Sotheby's parade of orders, medals and decorations includes the Gold Royal Humane Society Medal awarded to Grace Darling (£20,000 to £30,000). The record for a Victoria Cross may be broken by that awarded to Able Seaman William Alfred Savage for valour during "Operation Chariot" in 1942 (£50,000 to £100,000). 10.30am.

European post-war and contemporary art at Sotheby's London sees a first outing for works from the Pierre Matisse Gallery in New York, bought last spring to a hail of criticism from the trade, by Sotheby's in partnership with the New York dealer William Acquavella. This consignment includes *Nature Morte* by Jean Fautrier (£40,000 to £50,000) and *Charbon de Mer* by Wilfredo Lam (£100,000 to £150,000). Further highlights include Lucian Freud's minutely observed *Man Smoking* of 1956-58 (£400,000 to £600,000). 11am.

There are bargains both beautiful and bizarre at Christie's Old Master prints and British Colour Linocuts sale in London, due to the relative slackness of this market. An etching titled *The Tree Man* by Hieronymus Bosch, featuring a family eating supper within his trunk-cum-belly (£4,000 to £6,000). 11am.

Contemporary and modern prints at Christie's includes a series of tributes to fellow artists by David Hockney such as a hirsute Richard Hamilton (£1,500 to £2,500), and a frail Man Ray (£5,000 to £7,000).



Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602) and Chelsea Harbour (071-351 2331). Sotheby's London 34 and 35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080) Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James London SW1 (071-839 9060) and 85 Old Brompton Road SW7 (071-581 7611).

Collector

Of specs and the speculator

TAKE a pair of sparkling spectacles, with black plastic frames and thick lenses, of a type first marketed in the late 1950s.

Worn by an ageing Hank Marvin or a preppy City investor, they would have no value other than to their myopic owners. But the visual aids in question once belonged to Buddy Holly, one of the fathers of rock, whose stardom was cut short when he died in a plane crash in 1959, aged 22. They will be sold, along with numerous mothball-scented V-neck sweaters, shirts and shoes, by Buddy's widow, Maria, at Sotheby's New York tonight.

No one knows what they will fetch, although Sotheby's have placed a tentative estimate of £5,000. Before the calculators get going, however, a number of factors must be considered which are of relevance to an assessment of the strange market known as entertainment memorabilia. Like fans themselves, it can be fickle.

Plus points include the fact that Buddy Holly is of unquestionable importance to the history of rock. "Peggy Sue" and "That'll be the Day" are party staples to this day. In terms of sartorial history, Holly altered our attitude to the handicap of poor sight. "Buddy made it OK to wear glasses," John Lennon once



The glassy look: Buddy Holly wearing his famous spectacles

wrote. In the 1970s, Elvis Costello relaunched the Buddy Holly square frame, making it his trade mark.

Minus points, however, include the fact that Holly was never noted for his charisma. Making the charts is no guarantee of survival in the auction rooms, as Gene Pitney and Engelbert Humperdinck would vouch. Despite his skills as a survivor, Cliff Richard, has always been what the specialists call "soft".

Arguably, Buddy Holly's continuing hold on our consciousness is less to do with his talents than the determination of Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, who bought all of Buddy's publishing rights and relaunched him in the 1970s. Where does all this leave those glasses and their investment value?

The pair on offer are not the ones Buddy wore on the day of that fatal aircraft. Those were dredged out of a lake in Iowa, and are safely in Maria's possession, following her successful legal battle for them with Buddy's mother.

Mrs Holly says her husband had a number of pairs of spectacles. "Buddy was wearing them all the time. He was blind as a bat."

WHEN a given cast-off is expected to command a big price, the auction houses go to great trouble to obtain affidavits from vendors. But, who will be interested a generation from now? Think of all those hats supposedly thrown by Michael Jackson into swooning audiences. Is their destiny an Oxfam shop? Another shadow on the sale was the recent, disastrous

auction of Buddy Holly memorabilia, offered by an American fan, David Howerly, at Phillips in London. Casualties included a pair of glasses.

Only in the field of entertainment memorabilia do cast-off garments have a competitive market at all. Where else would a leather whip sell for £800, unless it was "Frank-a-Furter's wicked whip from the Rocky Horror Show"? Where else would a successful bidder for a ripped denim shirt worn by Pete Townshend of The Who in 1986, solemnly strip down in the saleroom, replace the shirt he was wearing with his purchase, and then walk tall out of the room?

There are two committed dealers in the field: Plastic Wax Records and Vinyl Experience. Devotees prepared to pay the auction prices which make the headlines can be counted on one hand: the Hard Rock cafe, the Museum of the Moving Image, and Bill Wyman, of the Rolling Stones. For the rest of us with a few hundred pounds to spare, the best prospect is Beatles memorabilia, which is the staple of the entire market.

"It is the safest investment because it is closest to the artist," according to Christie's expert, Carey Wallace.

Property from the estate of Buddy Holly, Sotheby's New York today (0101 212 606 7424).

Portrait

In the chicken runs

TIMOTHY Blencowe, the most popular image maker at the Slade School higher diploma show, is counting his chickens. By lunchtime on the opening day he had sold six witty etchings of them at around £120 each.

"Because chickens are such funny animals, they can be used for parodies on human existence," he says. He shows them at various anthropomorphic pursuits in *Chicken City*. In *Chickened out*, the bird appears to have been run-over, while a figure representing Mr Blencowe stalks away. Interested parties should buy quickly — the chicken phase is apparently almost over.

It is an achievement for a



Bird fancy: Timothy Blencowe, with one his chicken etchings student from the Slade, which holds out against commerce, to sell work. As a result, its display is of mind-numbing amateurism. Keith Wilson has attached a caption bearing his name beside a double light switch. The best paintings by one of the best artists, Mei-Song Wu, are not for sale. The Slade student with the most impressive combination

of quiet professionalism and profundity is Ben Singleton, whose subject is the portrayal of human stoicism in the face of personal disaster. His work includes boys choking on coal-dust, and a girl forced to work as a prostitute.

Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, Gower Street, WC1 (071 387 7050). Closes today.

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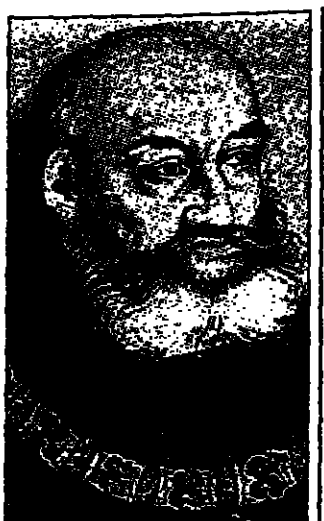
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At Large

AN advertisement in the *Antiques Trade Gazette* offers a reward "for information leading to the recovery" of George the Bearded, Duke of Saxony, a portrait by Lucas Cranach the Elder. The contact number given was answered by security at Christie's who have another Cranach for sale on July 6: the Electors of Saxony, estimated at £2.5 million.

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CARD

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ARTS

TELEVISION

Humility is the new goal

ONCE, not so long ago, half the pleasure of watching the World Cup lay in admiring the antics of the studio experts. Would Brian Clough admit to being less than omniscient? Would Malcolm Allison come to blows with George Best? Would Derek Dougan ever find a tie that was less than six inches wide?

The coverage this year has been much more subdued. Sober presentation and factual analysis are the order of the day. No one becomes too emotional or outspoken. The atmosphere is occasionally too business-like, but there is also a refreshing lack of nationalist hysteria. Perhaps it is a result of the approach of 1992. Or perhaps, after Hillsborough, television executives have, belatedly, discovered that football is only a game after all.

The fact that no British team has reached the final in nearly a quarter of a century must also count for something. In the past, commentators behaved as if the World Cup was merely on long-term loan to foreigners. This year, I detected a trace of humility.

So far, there is little to choose between the BBC and ITV programmes, even down to their muted set designs. The Corporation, of course, always has an extra ounce of gravitas when it comes to occasions such as this. Using Puccini's "Nessun dorma" as the theme music was an astute decision, though whoever had the idea of playing insistent pop music under recorded footage should think again. Desmond Lynam and Jimmy Hill are easily lampooned, but they do convey an unburied sense of authority.

The ITV side — captained by a relaxed Nick Owen — possesses most of the real characters. Rodney Marsh has the look of a man who has slipped in from another late night at the disco. Emyln Hughes displays a weighty meditation and plays his usual knock-about role as spokesman for the man on the terrace. By comparison, the BBC's former professionals seem over-formal.

This week's games gave the commentators little cause for excitement. There was more drama in the scenes of Bobby Robson's farewell lunch with his tormentors from the Press. During the matches, one can always pass the time in wondering why a computer company should receive a credit simply for displaying the score-line, a clock and a pair of flags, and why the commentators are so reluctant to use the obvious word to describe the pre-meditated foul play which marred so many of the games. It used to be called cheating.

CLIVE DAVIS

DANCE

One mighty leap into the Garden

Irek Mukhamedov, pride of the Bolshoi, joins the Royal Ballet next season. He tells John Percival the reasons for his decision

When Irek Mukhamedov decided the time had come to move on from the Bolshoi Ballet, he could have had his pick of the world's leading companies. Almost 30 years ago, Rudolf Nureyev joined the Royal Ballet, but since then the ballet stars who left Russia (Makarova, Baryshnikov, Godunov, Ruzmatov) have all gone to America. So why did Mukhamedov choose Covent Garden?

"I have to say that I had never seen the Royal Ballet perform," he says in a carefully considered reply delivered through an interpreter. "When I was on tour here, they were away. But I have danced all over the world, and I like Europe. I like London. And of course, the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, the name meant something. It is known, like the Bolshoi."

"Now I have been to see *Romeo and Juliet*, which I thought showed a good standard. Also, before I left Moscow, I saw a video in a friend's apartment. I arrived just after it had started, so I did not see the titles. As I watched, I thought 'this is a very professional company, an interesting ballet, and that girl is amazing'. At the end I saw that it was the Royal Ballet: *The Prince of the Pagodas* with Dancer Bussell."

So it is fitting that Mukhamedov will make his debut with the Royal Ballet on August 1, partnering Bussell in a new *pas de deux* which Kenneth MacMillan, the choreographer of *Pagodas*, is making for them to Tchaikovsky's music. Is he going to have as much effect on the company as Rudolf

Nureyev, his fellow Tatar, once did? I imagine not, at least as far as technique is concerned, because British male dancers today are of a much higher standard than when Nureyev arrived at Covent Garden.

Asked for first impressions of his new colleagues, Mukhamedov says: "I do not see much weakness. I think I am not much different from them. The men can jump, beat, turn. Not only the principals, but among the young dancers I see some good talent. Of course, this is in class. We shall have to see what happens on stage."

Once Mukhamedov gets on stage, the effect is likely to be explosive. A big man, strongly built with a big personality too, he approaches his roles like an actor. Although he is associated most closely with Spartacus, his favourite role is Ivan the Terrible. That is a part in which his brooding presence and powerful acting are as impressive as his whirling leaps.

His theatrical quality has developed over many years, a fact that could explain why he was not recruited immediately into the Bolshoi Ballet when he graduated at 18. He grew up in Kazan, in the south of Russia, and began dancing at five in the local Palace of Pioneers ("not professionally," he adds, with a deprecating smile).

At 10, he moved to Moscow and the Bolshoi school, then joined the Moscow Classical Ballet, a second division company which has made two British tours.

There, he says, he might dance a solo one night and be in the corps de ballet the next. He danced "all the repertoire except *The Creation*

of the World, I think," but his most notable roles were in *Goyene*, *Romeo and Juliet* (as both Romeo and Tybalt), and particularly in a ballet by Kasatkina and Vasiliev, the company's directors, to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

After three years there, his big break came when he entered an international ballet competition in Moscow at the urging of his teacher, Naum Azarin. Did he expect to win? "Niet! I thought I should get something, but not the gold medal and the grand prix. It was like a thunderbolt."

Yuri Grigorovich, artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet, was president of the jury. The result was that Mukhamedov quickly joined the Bolshoi as a principal dancer, making his debut as Spartacus. "At 21, I was the youngest ever to dance that role, and at first I was thinking about the technique, just getting through it all, but then I began finding out about the character."

"I think the most valuable part of my experience with the Bolshoi was the opportunity to work on roles by Grigorovich which are concerned with acting too. Even in his *Nutcracker*, it is a kind of fairytale, but there is a philosophy there. When I joined, we started work at once on *The Golden Age*. It was the first role created for me, and a great experience."

It was also, until now, the last role created for him. Although he is politely reticent about his reasons for leaving the Bolshoi, it is impossible not to think that, although he danced many roles there, the requirement to perform just a few of them over and over



Irek Mukhamedov's move is "to do with growing up. I have some experience and some maturity"

again on the Bolshoi's many tours must have been a factor. He says only that he had "a mixture of motives" and he thinks "it is chiefly something to do with growing up. I have some experience and some maturity and now is the time to use it."

Another motive, he proudly

admits, is that he will become a father soon. "I want my baby to be brought up in normal conditions, not having to worry about where to get food and clothes."

So now, at 30, after nine years of stardom, he makes a new start as a dancer and a family man. Masha, his wife, is a dancer. Will she

dance again? "We shall have to see what happens. Perhaps it depends on how many babies we have. Now I have to earn some money and buy a house."

Sylvie Guillem, tempestuous talent: Saturday Review, p16

CONCERTS

Judith triumphs St James's, Piccadilly

WHEN he wrote *Judith triumphs* in 1716, Vivaldi did not so much have in mind a dramatic entertainment as a piece through which to rally the spirits of his fellow Venetians, engaged in the war against the Turks. Not surprisingly, the oratorio's long sequence of arias — 28 of them — can therefore seem like a tedious ritual in these peaceful times, though in this performance, part of the Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music, conductor Ivor Bolton's purpose was clearly to inject the work with dynamism. There was, indeed, a palpable tension when the moment came for Judith to sever Holofernes's head, but it had been a long wait.

Vivaldi's style in this work has much in common with Handel's

slightly earlier Italian manner. One point of contact is the colourful instrumentation, with obbligatos for mandolin, for something called a salmoe (Nicholas Anderson's notes told us this was an obsolete woodwind instrument of uncertain nature, and I think we heard a chalumeau instead), and in one aria for the lovely combination of two violins and two violas.

Another is the ingenuity of some of the musical symbolism. For instance, when Holofernes falls in love with his enemy, his aria is a confused alternation of major and minor tonalities. Less subtle pictorial effects, such as rushing scales for tempests, or wide intervals for uncertainty, also abound, but they are often invested with striking originality of harmony, line and texture and were relished here by the St James's Baroque Players and Singers.

But a performance of this piece

stands or falls on the quality of its singers. Although by no means always unblemished in matters of interpretative conviction, this one had a strong cast, headed by Diana Montague as Judith. She controlled both voice and dramatic pacing astutely, singing with a sometimes disturbing modesty in part one, but emerging in full, noble glory by the end.

Holofernes was assigned to the contralto of Louise Winter, whose voice is perhaps better suited to later music, but who conveyed well both the hardness of a warrior and the vulnerability of a lovesick man. Of the supporting roles, Catherine Wyn-Rogers as Ozias showed a rich, very strong contralto and the dramatic sensibility to go with it. Lorna Anderson's soprano garnished the role of Abra with a well-focused and stylish lightness, and Susan Bickley invested the part of Vagans with some brilliant coloratura singing.

STEPHEN PETTITT

RPO/Previn Festival Hall

THE myth that Elgar can be interpreted well only by British conductors is still heard, despite the superb performances which Solti, Haitink and (more recently) Slatkin have obtained over the years. In fact, the notion that his music "runs in our blood" is probably sentimental tosh.

The truth is rather that Elgar's scores need to get exactly if they are to sound any good at all. Their rubato style is too subtle, their fluctuations between moods too fleeting and their orchestral textures too detailed to give up their secrets easily to newcomers. British conductors generally take Elgar more seriously than foreigners, so they spend the time to make his music work.

Andre Previn has shown, in past decades, that a cool and sane temperament is well-suited to the

interpreting of late-romantic English music. But on Thursday, conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the first concert of an Elgar/Brahms series, he produced truly grisly accounts of Elgar's *Cockaigne* overture and *Enigma Variations*. The detailed work had simply not been done.

Cockaigne comes alive, and its portrait of perky Edwardian London becomes vividly realised when a conductor is prepared to coax the various tableaux out of one another, so the music is both episodic and yet of one majestic sweep. Previn merely travelled blandly through the town like a hansom cab with the blinds down.

Other problems marred the *Enigma*. The starts of some movements were casual beyond belief; the instrumental balances lazily weighted in favour of heavy brass and percussion; the chording in "Nimrod" was like water slopping from a bucket. The pity was that, once in a while, the sun

peeped through: delicate variations were sometimes played with piquant charm.

Brahms's Violin Concerto was not altogether free of the evening's pervasive canni, but its soloist, Viktoria Mullova, did at least bring some sense of high-class adventure to the proceedings. She still favours an austere platform appearance, and her playing will never be considered skittish, but it has acquired much more character in the five years that she has been on the Western circuit.

Here, Mullova displayed a beautifully sweet timbre, exceptional accuracy and a classical poise that was, nevertheless, full of bold nuances, especially in the cadenzas and in the slow movement. In this, phrases were left, half-questioning, hanging in the air. In the context of the evening's other performances, this was music-making of considerable imagination.

RICHARD MORRISON

Unkind truth of saint's tale

THEATRE Bernadette Dominion

STEPHEN Potter once advised an author wanting to disarm the critics to dedicate his book to "X, in the hope he will regain God's glorious gift of sight". The publicity for *The People's Musical*, as Bernadette has dubbed itself, seems calculated similarly to undo its reviewers.

Ordinary punters, 2,000 of them, have reportedly dug into their savings to cover its costs. The husband-and-wife team responsible for the words and music, Maureen and Gwyn Hughes, have struggled for years against awesome odds to get the show produced. Yes, and the subject is a saint whose story it seems vaguely blasphemous to resist.

On dear. On Thursday night I caught myself wishing I was in a kindlier trade, such as whaling or seal-culling, for my message must be that the People should have gambled their hard-earned loot on something surer of success, such as the United Arab Emirates winning the World Cup.

The trouble starts with Lourdes itself. In Ernest Mann's production the kind of frolicsome village that exists only in musicals. Led by a somersaulting beggar, a sanitised peasantry leaps and bounds about its square. Before long, ladies are prancing with flower-baskets, moppets are singing cheeky songs, and fast women are dancing with waiters on tables while a fat cook chases a comic police-

man with a rolling pin. Enter Natalie Wright's sweet Bernadette Soubirous, exuding over-milked fragility. Unfortunately, the authors have no more to say about her than that she saw a vision, here a smoky light with a Cheshire Cat smile, oddly misconceived in a giant punice-stone, that she divided her community into sceptics and supporters; that she won over her inexhaustibly agonised mum and perhaps even the frock-coated figure who stalks obscurely round the stage, informing Bernadette "I wish I'd never set eyes on you/I wish I'd never heard the name Soubirous". Clarity is not the show's strength.

Nor is the sub-plot with which the authors desperately try to vary their tale. This involves a father's attempts to prevent his dotting daughter marrying a hero who repetitively sings things like "the sun may fade, the seas run dry/But my love will never die". I sympathised with the father, and not just because he was played so staidly it was impossible to see why anyone thought him drunk. Who would want a son-in-law capable of such rhymes?

Alas, both rhymes and characterisation are typical of the evening, while the music, with its soaring violins and samey rhythms, seems hardly more sophisticated than the Hums of Pooh, and probably less tuneful.

The programme tells us the composers once "got a song into the running for the Eurovision Song Contest". Good luck to them. Success there seems more likely than in the theatre.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Natalie Wright as the visionary girl in Bernadette

OPERA

A Midsummer Night's Dream RNCM, Manchester

THESE days it is hardly fashionable to present operas in a way the composer might have expected, but a college is a good place to risk breaking with fashion to give the students a sense of how things began. Joseph Ward actually sang in the first performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; his production at the Royal Northern College is thoroughly traditional, down to the detail of using the beautiful designs that John Piper made for the Royal Opera in 1961. As the actual midsummer evening wore on, Britten's music (aided by Philip Edwards' sensitive lighting) worked its magic in a way that was haunting and authentic.

There was a second risk: choosing a student conductor. Christopher Gayford is, admittedly, a student with considerable professional experience, but it was nevertheless astonishing how well he balanced the work's delicate textures and drew much

distinguished playing from the orchestra. Particularly in Act II — which is in any case the core of the work — he created a splendidly modulated flow, in which every detail seemed perfectly in place.

Among the serious roles, it was easy to welcome the ringing tenor of John Daszak's Lysander, Diana McNeill's as an impressively passionate Hermia, Paul Whelan's nicely controlled baritone as Demetrius, and a warm, heroic bass from Wyn Griffiths as Theseus. On the opening night, Simon Clulow's Oberon and Susan Roper's Titania showed signs of nerves, though they had an expressively athletic and clear Puck in Paul Westhead.

As so often, though, it was the rude mechanicals who stole the show. Their slapstick had the virtue of being funny without going over the top. John Swannock, Neil Griffiths, Trevor Swann and Stephen Allen all contributed well, making a fine context for what were perhaps the two most mature and rounded performances: Michael Bennett effortlessly and sweetly handling Peter Pears's old role of Flute, and Andrew Slater who, as Bottom, showed absolute mastery.

DAVID FALLOWS

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SATURDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC 1

- 6.40 Open University: Pure Maths - Dodecahedron Group 7.05 Data Models and Databases
- 7.30 Playdays presented by Dave Benson Phillips (r)
- 7.50 Muppet Babies. They decide to perform their own version of *Snow White* (r)
- 8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. The guests include Dale Thompson, folk group Skomoro and River City People. There is also an opportunity to train at the Space Camp in America and a preview of the new *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* video 10.52 Weather
- 10.55 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is: 11.00, 1.40 and 3.45 Cricket: third day's play in the second Test at Lord's between England and New Zealand. The commentary is described by Richie Benaud and Jack Banister: 1.00 News; 1.10 Motor Racing: highlights of last week's Le Mans, 1.55, 2.25, 2.55 and 3.30 Racing from Ascot: 2.10, 2.35, 3.05 and 3.45. The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Julian Wilson and Jimmy Lintley. Tennis: the singles final of the Wimbledon Ladies' championships from Eastbourne. Dan Maskell and Virginia Wade provide the commentary
- 5.05 News with Maura Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional news and sport 5.20 Bugs Bunny. Cartoon fun with the world's most intelligent rabbit

BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University: Networks and Malinca 7.15 *Care in the Community* 7.40 Geography: Interpreting Settlements 8.05 Fundamentals of Computing 8.30 All Change for System X 8.55 Learning through Interactive Video 9.20 Religion: Sikhs in Britain 9.45 Measure for Measure Workshop 10.10 Images: Lens Design 10.35 Sugar Takes Root 11.00 Managing Schools: The Power of the Purse 11.25 The Evolution of Plant Breeding Systems 11.50 Open Lecture: Teaching and Research 12.15 Special Education in Norway 12.40 Paquet in Perspective 1.05 Education: From Theory to Therapy 1.30 Modernism: Solchewy Art 1.55 Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1800 2.20 Housing in Birmingham
- 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 11 of the 91-part dramatisation of India's famous epic poem. King Kansa sets about murdering his sister's children, after a prediction that one will be responsible for his own death. The first six sons are easy to deal with, but not so the seventh, Gogga Karpur stars as the King. In Hindi with English subtitles
- 3.25 Film: *It Started in Naples* (1960). Not the World Cup again, this really is a film and the story of Gable, Sophia Loren and Vittorio De Sica do not even look at a football. It is a conventional romantic comedy with Clark Gable playing Clark Gable and Sophia Loren keeping the edifice afloat with some serious gushing. The two are at loggerheads over the future of an orphan child. Gable is a Philadelphia lawyer in town to sort out his late brother's estate, and shocked to find that the child is his nephew. After learning that Loren dances in a night-club, the correct Gable decides the child should accompany him

- 5.30 The Flying Doctors. More mobile medical wanderings with Australia's airborne medics. This week the docs help out an old man who has been confined to an old people's home by his wicked daughter intent on selling his successful cattle ranch to one George Baxter. The old man, with another elderly inmate of the home, decides to get back to the ranch as quickly as possible to stop the sale. (CeeFax)
- 6.15 That's Showbusiness. Mike Smith presents the quiz show that tests knowledge of the world of entertainment. Kenny Everett is joined by entertainer Richard O'Connell and, hoping to put one over her mother who captains the other side, Caron Keating. Gloria Hunniford has Fraser Hines of *Emmerdale* and actress Nyree Dawn Porter in support. (CeeFax)
- 6.45 The Last Days of Laughter Show. The BBC continues to flirt with this misnamed series. (CeeFax)
- 7.15 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth and Claire Sutton with another edition of the firm game show in which three people are given prizes to start with and then have to answer questions correctly to keep them. (CeeFax)
- 7.45 World Cup Grandstand. Live from the Stadio Nuovo Comunale in Bari, the game between Czechoslovakia and Costa Rica, introduced by Desmond Lynam. This evening's transmission sees the start of what for many is the competition proper, as it enters the knock-out stage. Plus the highlights

- from today's other second phase game between Cameroon and Colombia.
- 10.00 News with Nicholas Witchell. Weather
- 10.20 Casualty. Internal dramas threaten to upstage the plight of the sick and wounded in another episode of the fine hospital series. The press scandal involving a casualty intensifies. Megan is nervous about her interview with the general manager, which could lead to disciplinary action, and Charlie is increasingly disillusioned with his administrative role. Starring Brenda Fricker, Derek Thompson and Cathy Shipton (r). (CeeFax)
- 11.10 Film: *Enigma* (1933) starring Martin Sheen, Sam Neill and Brigitte Fossey, with Frank Finlay, Derek Jacobi and Michael Lindsay. It is a bit of an enigma why this film was ever made. Deleted even before recent events in Eastern Europe rendered it obsolete, the film's main fault is a confused script which even such an all-star cast (miscast almost to a man) cannot kick into life. Martin Sheen plays an expatriate American broadcaster sent into East Berlin to steal a scrambling device to forestall a plot to murder Soviet dissidents. It is symptomatic of the confusion and silliness of the plot that *Enigma* was the name of the German encoding device stolen by the Allies in the second world war - a fact which appears to have escaped the makers. Directed by Jeannot Szwarc. (CeeFax)
- 12.50am Weather

ITV LONDON

- 5.00 TV-am
- 9.25 Ghost Train. Among the guests are *Emmerdale* actors Ronald McGill and Stan Richards, Kristian Schmid from *Neighbours* and pop stars Kim Wilde and Yaz
- 11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video features Meatloaf
- 12.30 Huckleberry Finn and His Friends. 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather 1.10 Salt and Gherkins. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves discuss England and the Republic of Ireland's World Cup progress and Scotland's lack of it
- 1.50 International Rugby. Highlights of the game between New Zealand and Scotland
- 2.50 Coronation Street (r)
- 3.45 World Cup 90. Live coverage of the first second stage game between Cameroon and Colombia from the San Paolo Stadium, Naples
- NB: In the event of extra time being played, coverage will continue and later programmes will be subject to change

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Comic Book 7.30 International Times 8.00 Transworld Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line
- 9.25 Australian Rules Football. 10.30 Listening Eyes: What is Deaf Culture? Celebrating the achievements and work of the British Deaf Association (r)
- 11.00 Check Out. Consumer issues (r). (CeeFax)
- 11.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Vintage Western adventures starring Ward Bond
- 12.30 California Off Beat. Exploring the quirkiest aspects of California that make it the place it is today
- 1.00 Equinox: The Defender. Bob Deam as a Canadian with a dream. He believes that through his aeronautical flights he can create a revolutionary lighter plane and hopes to pay for his project by renovating old second world war planes for men with more than seasickness. But is he the genius he claims to be? (r)
- 2.00 Film: *Pick a Star* (1937, b/w). Starring Patsy Kelly, Jack Haley and Rosina Lawrence. A young woman wins a singing contest and her boyfriend heads off to Hollywood to try to set her on her path to stardom. A standard plot advanced by excellent camerawork from Laurel and Hardy. Directed by Edward Sedgwick
- 3.20 La Tombeuse de Lumiere. Animated look at the triumphs of early cinematographers
- 3.25 Film: *Thanks a Million* (1935, b/w) starring Dick Powell, Ann Dvorak and Fred Allen. Entertaining tale of a singer who discovers he can captivate crowds and is persuaded by his manager to take up politics. He then discovers what a crooked business it is. Directed by Roy Del Ruth
- 5.05 Brooksides Omnibus edition (r). (CeeFax)
- 6.00 Right To Reply presented by Brian Hayes
- 6.30 Gallery. Joining George Melly for the last in the series of this quiz show for art fans are regular captains Maggi Hambling and Frank Whitford and guests Glynn Williams (head of sculpture at Wimbledon College of Art), Anne Lydiate (artist), Andrew Brown

- 6.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 6.10 LWT News and weather 6.15 *Camel and Ball's Casino*. Tommy and Bobby invite viewers to enjoy more of their own brand of comedy
- 7.00 It's Beadle. The first in a new series in which Jeremy Beadle persuades members of the public to make fools of themselves
- 7.30 The Two of Us. Weak sitcom about a couple with different outlooks on life (r). (Oracle)
- 8.00 Film: *Asanti* (1979) starring Michael Caine, Peter Ustinov and Rex Harrison. Implausible adventure tale about a female doctor working in West Africa who is kidnapped by white slave traders. Directed by Richard Fleischer
- 10.05 News with Sue Carpenter, sport and weather 10.20 LWT Weather
- 10.25 *Smiley and Pacci*. Comedy (r)
- 10.55 Film: *Smiley and the Bandit II* (1980) starring Paul Reynolds, Jackie Gleason and Sally Field. Big Enos Burdette, hoping to find a way to blackmail the state governor in order to finance his own political ambitions, enlists the help of former bookkeeper, the Bandit. Directed by Hal Needham



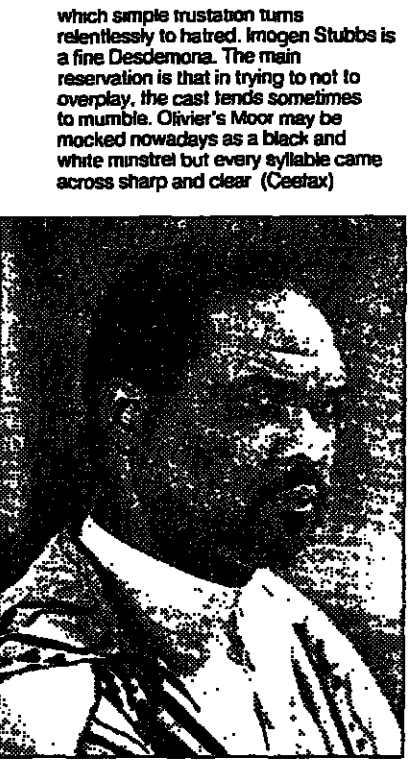
Burt Reynolds as the spirited Bandit (10.55pm)

- 12.45am Tour of Duty. Vietnam war drama 1.45 Film: *STY* (1980) starring Orson Shart, Cornelia Sharpe and Anita Shart. A James Bond-type yarn about a woman superspy who tackles the suave boss of an international crime syndicate. Directed by Robert Lewis
- 3.30 T and T. New adventure series about a private eye and a rookie lawyer. Starring Mr. and Mrs. Alex Armit
- 4.00 The Hit Man and Her 5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00



François Lefebvre and pet donkey (10.00pm)

- sees through the narrative with a series of good and bad reviews, drawn into their virtues and vices. The film is discussed in tomorrow's *Movie Masters* (Channel 4, 8.00pm) by Bill Forsyth, the Scottish director of *Gregory's Girl* and *Local Hero*.
- 11.50 Burning Embers. Tony Benn and his friends get together tonight in front of the Reichstag building by they look for parallels and contrasts between the 19th-century unification of Germany under Bismarck and the new European nationalism unleashed by the collapse of the Soviet bloc. Those who have followed the series so far will have got used to the eccentric presentation of the director Rob Walker and not be distracted by it. Benn is joined by the combative British playwright Howard Brenton as well as figures of various political shades from west and east Germany and Czechoslovakia. They address themselves to the implications of a reunited Germany, the prospects for establishing democracy in the eastern states and the pressures to turn former state-controlled economies into free markets
- 12.50am Encore (1951, b/w). Three films based on short stories of W. Somerset Maugham, introduced by the author. They are *The Art and the Grasshopper* starring Nigel Patrick; *Winter Cruise* with Kay Walsh in fine form as a talkative spinster; and *Gigolo* and *Gigoloette* with Glynn Johns. Directed by, in order, Pat Jackson, Anthony Pelissier and Harold French. Ends at 2.30



Willard White plays a low key Othello (8.00pm)

- 11.40 Cricket: Second Test. Richie Benaud with highlights of the third day's play in the game at Lord's between England and New Zealand
- 12.10am Tennis. Highlights of the final of the Pilkington Glass ladies' singles championship from Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Introduced by Helen Rodhouse with commentary by Dan Maskell, John Barrett and Virginia Wade. Ends at 12.55

ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 12.50am Kojak 1.50 The Hi Man and Her 4.00-5.00 In the Heat of the Night
- BORDER**
As London except: 12.50am Kojak 1.50 The Hi Man and Her 4.00-5.00 In the Heat of the Night
- CENTRAL**
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 McCartney 12.50am Garrison's Girls 1.50 Crime/Variations 2.25 Police District 3.25 America's Top Ten 3.55 President 4.55-5.00 Profiles
- CHANNEL**
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superstars 12.45am Star Symbols 1.45 Star Power 2.45 The Twilight Zone 3.00 Wrestling 4.00-5.00 The Hi Man and Her
- GRAMPIAN**
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Am Fresh 12.50am Kojak 1.50 The Hi Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

- GRANADA**
As London except: 12.50am Kojak 1.50 The Hi Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- HTV WEST**
As London except: 12.50am Throb 1.20 The Company 1.50 Film: The Man Who Shot Liberty Bells 4.00-5.00 Beatbox Dr Feedback
- HTV WALES**
As HTV West except: No Variations.
- SCOTTISH**
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 McCartney 12.50am Film: The Man Who Could Not Die 1.50 The Hi Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- TSW**
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The Hi Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- TYS**
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superstars 12.45am X-Files 1.45 Star Symbols 1.45

- Radio 1**
FM Stereo and MW 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News
- Radio 2**
FM Stereo and MW 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News

- Radio 3**
6.35am Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather and News Headlines 7.00am Morning Concert: Verdi (Overture, Sicilian Vespers: LSO under Abbado) 7.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 5.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455)

- Radio 4**
6.35am Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather and News Headlines 7.00am Morning Concert: Verdi (Overture, Sicilian Vespers: LSO under Abbado) 7.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 5.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455)

- Radio 5**
6.35am Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather and News Headlines 7.00am Morning Concert: Verdi (Overture, Sicilian Vespers: LSO under Abbado) 7.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 7.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 8.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 9.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 10.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 11.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 12.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 1.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 2.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 3.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.15am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.30am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.45am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 4.55am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455) 5.00am Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 455)

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WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.

5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

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EUROSPORT

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BBS: THE MOVIE CHANNEL

All films are followed by News and Weather.

11.30am The Last Married Couple in America (1980) starring George Segal and Natalie Wood as a happily married couple living in Los Angeles who discover if they should not the same reaction.

1.00am The Last Married Couple in America (1980) starring George Segal and Natalie Wood as a happily married couple living in Los Angeles who discover if they should not the same reaction.

THE PLAYERS

6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News

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Address

Postcode

Send to: Cindy Salas-Ortiz, Room 903009, FREEPOST, London EC2B 1BD.

SKY NEWS

6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News

SKY MOVIES

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The versatile Sir Robert Helpmann (11.05pm)

how good? Why was he sacked from the Australian Ballet, fantastically recalled in newspaper cuttings but left unelaborated? Sir Robert is clearly much missed by his friends, but his memory would be better served by greater critical scrutiny

12.05am International Rugby. Highlights of the Australia v France game played a few hours ago in Brisbane

1.05 TV Chart Show (1)

2.05 Film: Island of Terror (1966) starring Peter Cushing, Eddie Byrne and Edward Judd. After finding a boneless corpse on an island off the Irish coast, Cushing and Byrne investigate and discover a scientist making monsters which thrive on bone. Directed by Terence Fisher

3.45 Pick of the Week

4.15 American Documentary: Desperately Seeking Baby. An infertile couple try to adopt a baby

5.15 TITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

Rifkin says he was not designed for hair and looks awful with it. According to Rifkin the riot set in soon after the Garden of Eden and was compounded by the invention of hours, minutes and seconds in opposition to natural rhythms. What Rifkin is for is less obvious than what he is against and the

9.00 Movie Masterclass: In the last of the series the Scottish director Bill Forsyth discusses Robert Bresson's *Au Hasard Balhasar*, which was screened last night

9.15 Three Plays by Gertrude Stein. *Look and Long, In a Garden* and *Three Sisters* who are *Not Sisters*. The first Lika winner Jap Drupstein directs the three plays set to music by Fay Lovsky. The eerie tones of Stein's work are communicated through dance and mime

10.00 Film: Strangers Kisses (1983). An affectionate tribute to low budget film making in Hollywood in the 1950s. Loosely based on the early career of Stanley Kubrick. Peter Coyote plays the Kubrick figure, Stanley, a young director trying to set up a triangular love story with boxing background. A gangster agrees to back the project on condition that his girlfriend (Victoria Tennant) plays the leading role. The British director Matthew Chapman cleverly combines pastiche 1950s colour with black and white for the film-within-a-film.

11.45 Film: Far from War (1987). Mainland Chinese film about a retired soldier and widower who lives with his son and daughter-in-law and gets on their nerves. He escapes into memories of his Japanese war experience and of an adolescent sexual encounter that was the highlight of his emotional life. The film offers a revealing analysis of marriage and family life in modern Chinese society. Directed by Hu Mei. Ends at 1.25am

ITV VARIATIONS

[illegible]

Heaven 12.25am The Human Factor 12.55
The Invisible Man 1.25 Film Melody 3.40
Legend 2000 4.30 5.00 Dark of the Moon

12:30pm-1.00 Granada
 Coronation Street 2.05-3.45
 Enemy of Rome 7.15-7.45
 12.55am 1 Spy 1.55 Ouz
 Big Valley 3.25 Pck of
 the TV Chart Show 4.50-5.00
 of Fame
 12:30pm-1.00 Looking
 time Tunnel 2.00 Along the
 12.50 HTV Newsweek 3.00
 2.30-3.45 Cartoo Time 7.15-
 12.55am Prisoner. Call
 Hunt Show 2.45 Film The
 House 4.05-5.00 Hi Man
 12:30pm-12.55 The
 1.00 Farming Wags 2.30-
 3.45 Highways
 12:30pm-1.00 Farming
 Issues News 1.25-2.45 Farm
 celebrity's Out To Get Jen
 of Living 12.55am 1 Spy
 2.25 The Big Valley 3.25
 3.55 The TV Chart Show
 World Cup Half of Fame
 12:30pm-1.00 Agenda
 1.45 Film and His Friends 1.40
 1.45 Survival 2.15-2.45
 1.5 The Invisible Man 1.25
 to Live 3.15 The Tonight
 and 2000 4.30-5.00 Pck of
 12:25pm-1.00 Jack

opening

NOW

Robin 11.00 Crème de la
Creme at Moscow 12.45pm
Now 1.00 The Country
Documentary: Muriel
by Maurice Beethoven —
30 in the Frame: William da
Silva's new Slave Drives
6.00 Sunday Ours: The
Front of House

RADIO STATION

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**ook at
legend**

**Barbara
Taylor
Bradford**

**The
Machinist
of Life**

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SUMMARY

Taylor's view



GRAHAM Taylor (above), who is expected to become the next manager of the England football team, today continues his special analysis of the World Cup for *The Times*. He examines England's progress to the second round and says they could reach the semi-finals but he warns of the Belgians, whom England meet next. Page 33

CRICKET

Knight vision

SIR Richard Hadlee, who was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours List last week, has been a leading figure in first-class cricket since 1972. In his new book, he reflects on the umpires, the players and the pressures. *The Times* features an extract. Page 32

TENNIS

Youth service



THE champions of tennis grow younger every year, and the latest is Monica Seles, who, at the age of 16, has just won the French Open. Next week she leads Jennifer Capriati (above), aged 14, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, aged 18, in the attack on Steffi Graf, the Wimbledon champion of the last two years, who has reached the grand old age of 21. Andrew Longmore, tennis correspondent, describes the rise of the Seles phenomenon. Page 31

COMMENT

Winning way

THE professionalism of Ivan Lendl in his preparations for Wimbledon and Nick Faldo in his challenge for the US Open golf championship, has earned the admiration of Sebastian Coe. In a special article, Coe explains his passion for the professional approach to sport. Page 30

MOTOR RACING

Driving trip

READERS have the opportunity, in a competition today, to win a trip to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 15 as the guests of Marlboro. Meanwhile, Ayrton Senna is favoured to win the Mexican Grand Prix tomorrow. Page 37

RACING

Ascot surprise



THE run of unexpected results at Royal Ascot continued yesterday when Assatis and De Nisky, the two 50-1 outsiders, fought out the finish of the Hardwicke Stakes. Assatis prevailed by three-quarters of a length with Ray Cochrane (above) having switched to the winner only during the morning when Guy Harwood withdrew his other runners. Page 34

BOATING

Sea change

AS MORE and more people go down to the sea for their sport and leisure, *The Times* launches a weekly review of news and comment on the world of boats. Barry Pickthall, yachting correspondent, explains how Lord Selkirk makes his cruiser, worth £300,000, pay its way. Page 39

Football scrabble makes way for sudden death

From DAVID MILLER, CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT, CAGLIARI

THE World Cup now becomes fun. Well, more fun, we must hope, than some of the play, all too predictably, in the cautious opening phase of 36 matches, during which I have seen 18 of the 24 teams.

I have warmed instinctively to eight of them: to the midfield precision and imagination of Italy and Belgium; to the pace and power of West Germany and the subtlety of Brazil, Uruguay and Yugoslavia; to the spontaneous skill of Cameroon and Colombia. My head, if not my heart, as yet remains impervious to nationalistic allegiance. England have been less than impressive.

Now two of the eight, Brazil and Germany, must respectively meet Argentina and the Netherlands in second-round clashes tomorrow worthy of the semi-finals. The spectacular performance of Italy, with the \$13 million Baggio, in defeating Czechoslovakia, has avoided the prospect of an Italy-West Germany quarter-final, though now Italy's probable semi-final is against Brazil.

Too often, however, during the past fortnight, we have been no more than watching the grass grow, in sauna-like heat, with England's group the most arid and lifeless — a mere seven goals in six matches, compared with 21 in West Germany's group and double figures everywhere else. Only Costa Rica and South Korea have had fewer shots per match than England, so there is no denying that England's progress is a shade fortuitous.

Never mind. As the professionals say, always pragmatic rather than glory-hunting, you should take it one match at a time. England, with one lucky goal from Lineker and, almost seismic in the circumstances, a header from Wright, are in the second round against Belgium; then, subsequently, a seemingly manageable quarter-final hurdle against Cameroon or Colombia away from the semi-final. Triumph in the World Cup can come by the unlikelyst of routes — West Germany in 1954 and 1974 and Argentina in 1978 won after losing in the first round.

England have a curate's egg of a team. With outstandingly skilful players in Barnes, Gascoigne, Waddle and Lineker, they have scored fewer goals than the first two teams in any group except for the Republic of Ireland. But with a manager, fluctuating over the use of a defensive sweeper, have nevertheless conceded fewer goals (one) than all but Italy (none) and Brazil (one).

You cannot help feeling that England's campaign is a bit like an Everest attempt without oxygen masks, with a manager who, at the South Col, has still to decide who should attempt the final ascent. Bets on England's line-up are as legitimately varied as forecast on their results.

Gascoigne, whose free kick brought Wright's critical goal, has been England's revelation so far, growing in stature every match at the heart of midfield. His reverse spin past Dutch defenders on the byline nearly brought victory a week ago and in two weeks he has risen from dilettante to playmaker, with a visible resolution that can partially compensate for the absence of his injured captain.

But where are Barnes and Waddle, almost unseen against Romania and waking up too late with four goals against Cameroon. A lesser surprise, besides the shaky start of Argentina and the Netherlands, the respective world and European champions, was the elimination of Sweden, whose supposedly sound defence caved in, conceding six goals.

We have been in a situation in which the evolution of the tournament, day by day, has generated an interest greater than the football being played. Could the anonymous United Arab Emirates or United States frustrate Yugoslavia or Italy? Could South Korea deny the splendid Uruguayans a second round place and hand it to sterile Scotland?

We have been watching a kind of football scrabble, not, up to now, a sustained exhibition of the finer techniques of the game. A colleague just returned from a few days back in London reports that the talk in the pubs has been of nothing but the obtuse ramifications of possibilities in the second round draw rather than on memorable goals. Of these there have been barely half a dozen.

Egypt? Unless they begin to prosper, and unless the manager yet again changes his attacking formation by excluding the limited Bull and finding better support for Lineker, England may stumble against Belgium. Belgium's encounter with Uruguay, which they were fortunate to win 3-1 with ten men after their captain was sent off, was of a higher technical and tactical level than any of the other 11 matches I have seen.

With Belgium's menace coming from their counter-attacking overlaps from midfield and defence — by Clijsters, Versavel, the veteran Ceulemans and elusive Scifo — England could be inviting trouble if they persist with a flat back four of two central defenders without the cover of a sweeper.

At Camp Five, the England manager is still pondering on his game-plan. Such oscillation in formation only exaggerates lack of integration among players. Argentina and the Netherlands are

WORLD CUP PROGRAMME

FIXTURES

Today
Cameroon v Colombia (Naples, 4.01).....
Czechoslovakia v C Rica (Bari, 8.0).....

Tomorrow

Brazil v Argentina (Turin, 4.0).....
W Germany v Netherlands (Milan, 8.0)....

TELEVISION

Today
BBC: 7.45-10.0pm Live coverage of Costa Rica v Czechoslovakia.
ITV: 3.45-6.0pm Live coverage of Cameroon v Colombia.
EUROSPORT: 4.0-6.0pm Live coverage of Cameroon v Colombia. 8.0-10.0pm Live coverage of Czechoslovakia v Costa Rica. 10.30pm-12.30am Cameroon v Colombia. 1.30am-3.30am Czechoslovakia v Costa Rica.

Tomorrow
BBC: 3.45-6.0pm: Brazil v Argentina. ITV: 7.45-10.15: West Germany v Netherlands.
EUROSPORT: 10.0am-1.0pm: Cameroon v Colombia. 1.30am-3.30am: Czechoslovakia v Costa Rica. 4.0-6.0pm: Live coverage of Brazil v Argentina. 11.0pm-3.0am: Brazil v Argentina and West Germany v Netherlands.

caught in equal indecision, though emotional as much as tactical, with the world's best two players, Maradona and Gullit, both in the aftermath of injury and nowhere near their peak. It will take an exceptional team to overturn Brazil or West Germany.

The only big surprise of the tournament has been the elimination of the Soviet Union, unhinged by a questionable penalty in their opening match against Romania and waking up too late with four goals against Cameroon. A lesser surprise, besides the shaky start of Argentina and the Netherlands, the respective world and European champions, was the elimination of Sweden, whose supposedly sound defence caved in, conceding six goals.

We have been in a situation in which the evolution of the tournament, day by day, has generated an interest greater than the football being played. Could the anonymous United Arab Emirates or United States frustrate Yugoslavia or Italy? Could South Korea deny the splendid Uruguayans a second round place and hand it to sterile Scotland?

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A midfield revelation: the resolute Paul Gascoigne has grown in stature with every England game

finer techniques of the game. A colleague just returned from a few days back in London reports that the talk in the pubs has been of nothing but the obtuse ramifications of possibilities in the second round draw rather than on memorable goals. Of these there have been barely half a dozen.

The talk of democracy, for expansion of the game in the so-called Third World, the claim that emerging teams are charming us all and that there should be more of them in place of some of the 14 Europeans, is wholly misleading. Of the eight lesser teams, Egypt, the UAE, South Korea and the US have correctly been dispatched home, while Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Republic of Ireland have survived. The only two of the eight to have played positive football are Cameroon, the former African champions, and, in phases, Colombia. The

others, including the Irish, have been as closed for entertainment as Rochdale on a Monday evening.

FIFA's policy, said to be exaggerated, of severe action against fouling is both necessary and long overdue; and as Franz Beckenbauer has said, there must be more penalties against desperation time-wasting by no-hopers seeking a draw from the kick-off.

A coincidental effect of referees' severity against fouls is to make even more redundant much of the insular British attitude to football. Scotland in this tournament were so short of players that if they could not intimidate they had little else left. A Scottish colleague, who is an otherwise sensitive, gentle and intelligent man, told Andy Roxburgh that he was ashamed of Scotland against Costa Rica because "they were not even close to getting yellow cards".

The handicap of the Football League and Scottish League as breeding grounds for international footballers is that too many managers see yellow-card football as a short cut to success. It is indicative of the mentality of the English game that among the majority of supporters here in Sardinia the second most admired player after Gascoigne is Bull, who is struggling to get a touch of the ball.

Middle order open to offers

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORDS (second day of five): England have scored 329 for eight wickets against New Zealand. NO SOLUTION was in sight yesterday to the frailties still bedeviling England's batting. As showers visited Lord's with the curt regularity of a rent collector, England's response was little more than a deposit on the required payment. A patient full house on this traditional social day may have gone home happy enough with their ration of entertainment but those with England's longer-term prospects at heart learned nothing new to their advantage and had some uncomfortable suspicions reinforced.

The best innings, by far, came from Gooch and Smith and there was a breezy offering, full of quality strokes, from Lamb. We already knew they could play. The disturbing news from day two of this second Cornhill Test was that the two middle-order positions for which England have persistently failed to find suitable tenants remain very much open to offers. Stewart has probably done enough to earn another game at No. 3, but his maiden Test fifty was unconvincing, while the lead-

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND
First innings: 329 for 8
G A Gooch 85, A J Stewart 54, R A Smith 64

er of the national averages, Fairbrother, scored only two and was distinctly fortunate to make so many.

As if weighed down by the demands upon him, Stewart was runless for fully half an hour before perversely taking seven in three balls from Morrison. His concentration was undeniable. All players have idiosyncrasies in the nervous moments of an innings, and Stewart is a bat-twiddler. Yesterday, his bat was twisted furiously between balls. He was also evidently intent on eliminating risks in his vulnerable area outside off stump. But, although repeatedly shouldering arms, he was still sometimes tempted to thrust at the ball, firm-footed. Twice, it carried just wide of gully.

Gooch was in impressive control, stretching a long way forward against Hadlee, who again had some no-balling problems, and punishing anything loose with certainty. There was a false shot, when he edged Hadlee low through the slips, but as this was accompanied by the striking of police sirens in St John's Wood Road, a loud and stately military fly-past and comical uproar in the members' stand, caused by a spilt champagne bottle, hardly anyone noticed.

When Gooch is playing well, the trademark is a controlled, ball-

Continued on page 30, col 1

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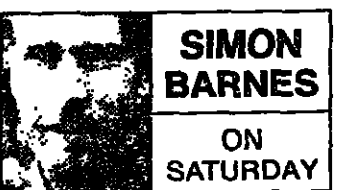
the
Enterprise
Initiative

Romanian smile hides the fear

Rome

THIS column is torn in two when it comes to nominating the team of the World Cup finals. Cameroon is one possibility, for the joy they have brought, but I am inclined to go for Romania, for the sorrow they have brought. "For the first time, we will be playing with smiles on our faces," their manager, Emerich Jenei, announced before the first game, which was a glorious demolition of the Soviet Union. The words have acquired a bitter irony since then as the troubles of Romania reassert themselves. Italy invited, and paid for, 1,000 Romanians to come here to watch the football, many of them involved in Ceausescu's fall. Now, they are dreading the prospect of return: many have asked for asylum in Italy.

As I write, no player has done so, though the brave new world of freedom of expression and movement looks less and less like the easy and joyful option it seems a mere fortnight ago. The old days seem to be back and, in the old days, football was a major plaything of the Ceausescu family. "They tried to fix games. They used their own positions with the referees, the leaders of the opposite teams, even with the players," Jenei said. "It wasn't possible to make it public but everyone knew." Other players have talked of Securitate spies disguised as players in the Securitate-backed side, Dynamo Bucharest. Two of the leading Romanian players have already agreed deals to join big foreign clubs. But for them, as



SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

much as for the rest, the smile has been replaced by a more familiar expression — the nervous glance over the shoulder.

Power to the people

THE World Cup is clearly a question of power. This is so much the case that in Bangladesh, an electricity station was attacked by enraged people after there was a power cut in the middle of a big game. There has been similar trouble in Sudan but the good news for football people in Khartoum is that rain over Lake Nasser has raised the water level of the Blue Nile. This means that the power station at Rosieras Dam, 280 miles from the capital, is working at full capacity.

There had been such a surge in demand during the opening match — Argentina versus Cameroon — that, ten minutes into the game, viewers were instructed by an on-screen caption to turn off electrical appliances or risk a power cut. Lights all over Khartoum were instantly switched off and the Sudanese cheered Cameroon to victory in a city lit only by the light of the television screens.

Wine is user-friendly

MATCH days are supposed to be alcohol-free days here, but Italians — those outside Cagliari, anyway — are getting unhappy by the match.

Rome, Turin, Bologna and Florence have reduced the 24-hour ban to a few hours around match-time. Many bars and restaurants have simply taken unilateral action against the ban but the lips of this column are sealed. There have been no mass arrests of people taking a civilised glass with a meal.

Meanwhile, wine growers planned to wave a banner over Italy's last qualifying match, one reading: "Wine is not violence." I did not spot it myself but I had other things on my mind at the time... so did the 60,999 other people there, as it happens. Certainly, the entire city seemed drunk on mere victory after.

● The most forbidding personality of this World Cup is certainly Valery Nepomniashchy, the granite-faced Siberian who manages the Cameroon team — a wonderfully purposeful meeting of opposites. Here is Nepomniashchy on conjugal visits: "Today is the day for meeting the wives. Footballers are also people and, if a man is in discomfort for a long time, it can affect his work."

A divine dilemma

MEANWHILE, let us turn to things like vicars and cricket. The secretary of Worcestershire, Mike Vockins, is now the Reverend Mike Vockins, though he still fulfils his job for the county. Next month, he has a clash of engagements: a couple who wish to get married on July 14, and the Benson & Hedges final at Lord's when Worcestershire play Lancashire. Cricket has won. "I was happy to do the service if Worcestershire did not get to the

final," he said. "But unless the couple can fly me from Lord's at three o'clock on the day, someone else will take charge."

Vockins is only following a precedent set by the Pope. At a recent engagement, the pontiff said: "The Pope must not even try to compete with the national duty of sitting in front of the television. So I'll say goodbye now, so as to avoid a conflict with Italian football."

Hadlee joins the band

REERINGS to Sir Richard Hadlee, the latest of cricket's band of knights errant... though, come to think of it, errant is probably the last word one should ever use of Sir Richard. New Zealand's very own Knight of the Doleful Countenance is not, of course, the first man to get his "Sir" on a cricket scoreboard. My colleague, Richard Streeton, mentioned the captain of Gloucestershire dignified to cricket's spectators as "Sir D. Bailey". There are still more of them. The most dashingly obscure of them is Sir A. Hazlerigg, who captained Leicestershire between 1907 and 1910.

There was never any doubt about Sir Julien Cahn's status. He, of course, gave his attentions to a team modestly named "Sir Julien Cahn's XI". The side did, indeed, play first-class matches, which is the qualification required here. Len Hutton, unlike the previous two, was knighted for services to cricket, and was translated thus on his retirement. But he came out of retirement to play a first-class match against Cambridge University, and is duly listed in *Wisden* as "Sir L. Hutton". He made a duck six transit gloria cricketi.

Graf, queen of the Wimbledon tennis championships, which start on Monday, is under threat from a giggly 16-year-old

Seles perfecting a killing technique

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

MONICA SELES

Born: December 2, 1973, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.
Lives: Sarasota, Florida.
Height: 5ft 9in. Weight: 120lbs.
World ranking: 3. Left-hander with two-handed backhand and forehand.
Grand slam titles: French Open 1990.
Other titles: 1989 (1); Virginia Slims of Houston, 1989 (5); Lipton International, US Hardcourts, Eckerd Open, Italian Open, Lufthansa Cup, 1990 record: won 34, lost 3. Won last 32 singles matches.
Wimbledon record: won 3, lost 1.
Career prize-money: \$994,524.

MONICA Seles was always one step ahead of the rest. She retired from tennis at the age of six. She wanted to play with her dolls. It was only because her brother, Zoltan, began to win trophies for tennis that she reconsidered her first career decision and returned to the car park which served as a practice court in her home town of Novi Sad, in Yugoslavia. The net was a piece of string tied to two car bumpers.

Ten years on, Seles begins her second Wimbledon as the No. 3 seed and the youngest ever French Open champion, with praise ringing in her ears and an avenue of opportunities stretching before her eyes. She is a millionaire and the greatest asset of the highly profitable family firm of Seles and Co. Last week she was officially confirmed as a celebrity with a guest appearance on *Wogan*. Life is sweet at 16.

From the day she first picked up a racket, Seles was coached by her father, Karoly, a cartoonist by training, an enthusiast and extrovert by nature. He interpreted the coaching manual and drew pictures of Tom and Jerry on the tennis balls to revive the flagging interest of a nine-year-old.

He did not believe all he read in the manual either, and encouraged Monica to hit her ground strokes two-handed off both sides. Most important of all, he instilled in his daughter his own sense of fun. Asked after her historic victory in the French Open whether it was

the best day of her life, Seles was for once struck dumb. Wasn't every day the best day of your life? That strange combination of homespun skills has produced a player who defies analysis. At 5ft 9in and 8st 8lb, Seles hits the ball harder than any other player on the women's tour; at the age of 16, she has the wide-eyed innocence of a 12-year-old, the mental agility of a veteran, while behind the flaxen hair and the little girl giggle lies the instinct of a killer.

"She has no remorse or pity on court," Barbara Potter, who retired last year but remains one of the shrewdest observers of the women's game, says. "That was what marked her out from the rest when she first came along. You could smell it. There was something on her agenda and you were in the way. But she doesn't feel less loved because she's just stomped all over you. She needs to win and that's a fantastic attribute." And one instantly recognised by Ion Tiriac, who saw something of the

same in Boris Becker. "She is Jimmy Connors transported to the female game. She has power and determination and that is very unusual. She would crawl over broken glass to win a tournament," he says.

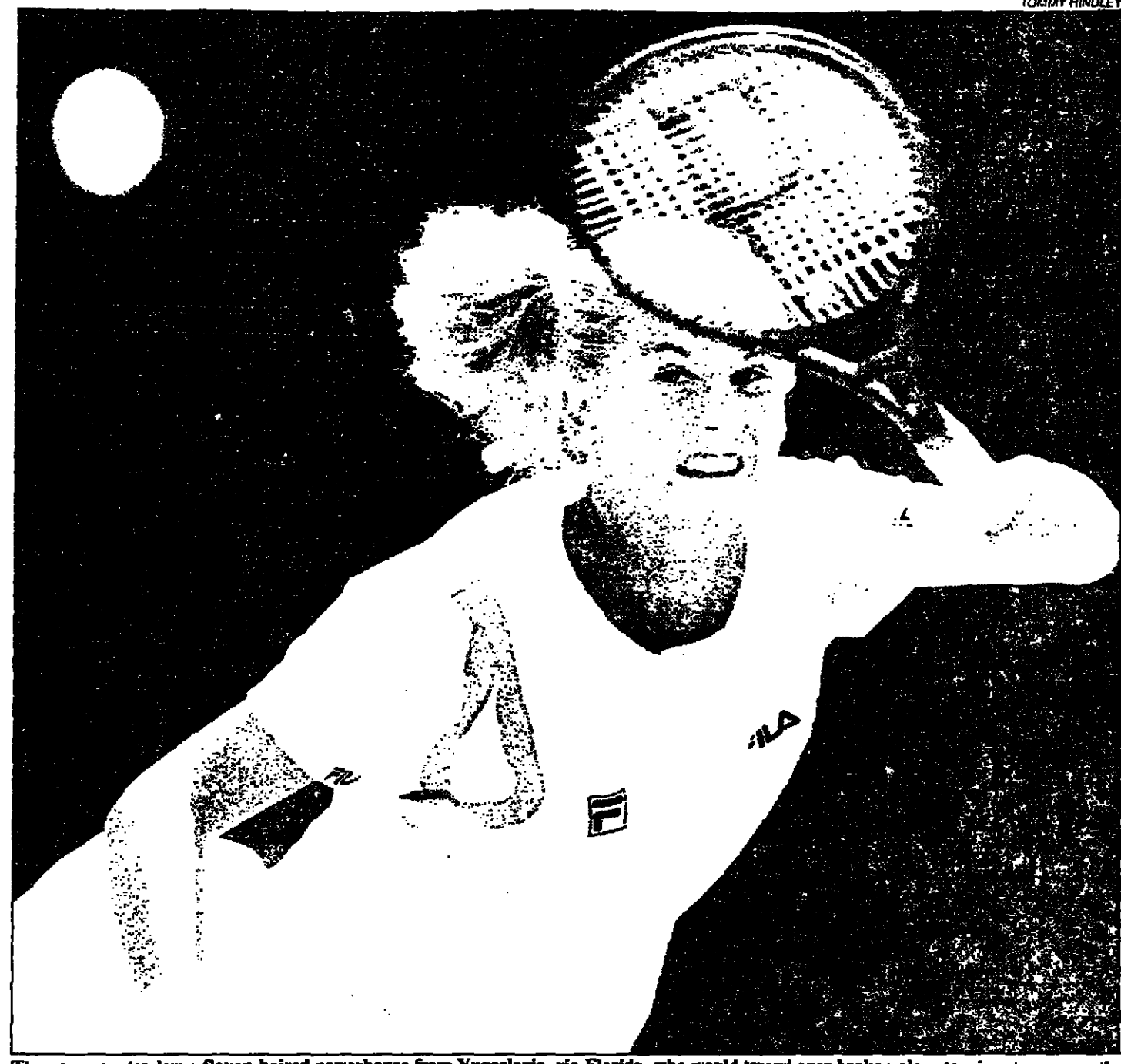
Yet there is nothing obvious in Seles's background to explain the intensity or the power. She is not a hungry backstreet kid, like Connors, does not have the cold severity of Borg or Evert nor, as yet, the athletic prowess of Navratilova or Graf. "It's not just natural timing, the power comes from the hips," Potter says. "That also means her footwork must be good because her body is in the right position. She can do almost anything with the ball on the baseline, and with disguise. That is real talent."

Potter finds it harder to explain the source of Seles's manic will to win. "I think it's partly inborn, but you can learn to win too. I didn't know how to construct a victory. Monica does. When she sees the opening, that's it. She doesn't hesitate."

Those instincts emerged very early in Seles's career. She was Yugoslav under-12 champion at the age of nine, before she even knew how to keep the score in fact. That same year she went to America for the first time and saw Disney World. By the end of 1985, she had won two European championships and been named the Yugoslav sportswoman of the year, a rather incongruous title for a 12-year-old.

She had also exhausted the practice facilities in her native land and come to the notice of Nick Bollettieri, whose school in Florida has produced Krickstein, Aris and, most recently, Agassi. Bollettieri vividly recalls his first sight of Seles.

"At first I didn't see her at all. I heard the grunt and then I saw the racket, which was bigger than her, and I saw her feet moving like clockwork and I saw her attack every ball, taking it on the rise." The family moved to Florida, survived the lonely early weeks in a new country and settled down to



The young pretender: a flaxen-haired powerhouse from Yugoslavia, via Florida, who would 'crawl over broken glass to win a tournament' live the American dream.

Under Bollettieri's stern tutelage, Seles added discipline and pace to her game so that when she first came on to the circuit full-time in 1989, she was more than ready for the fray. In her second tournament, she shook the establishment by beating Chris Evert in the final of the Virginia Slims in Houston. Evert got her own back in the US Open later in the year, but had already taken the hint and announced her retirement. A new style of player was emerging and Evert and Navratilova saw the writing on the wall.

The four-year relationship with Bollettieri ended untidily last month, amid accusations of ingratitude on one side and neglect on the other. Karoly resumed the role of full-time coach; Bollettieri is heading for the law courts in an effort to recoup some of his investment. The whole affair blew up in the middle of the French

Open, but Monica handled difficult questions with the delicacy of a politician. "She has a 35-year-old brain inside a 16-year-old body," according to Potter.

When she is not on court, Seles tries to catch up on her studies in biology and geography. But she admits that finding time to study is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly when there is shopping for clothes to be done or a film to be seen. Besides, with career earnings of nearly \$1 mil-

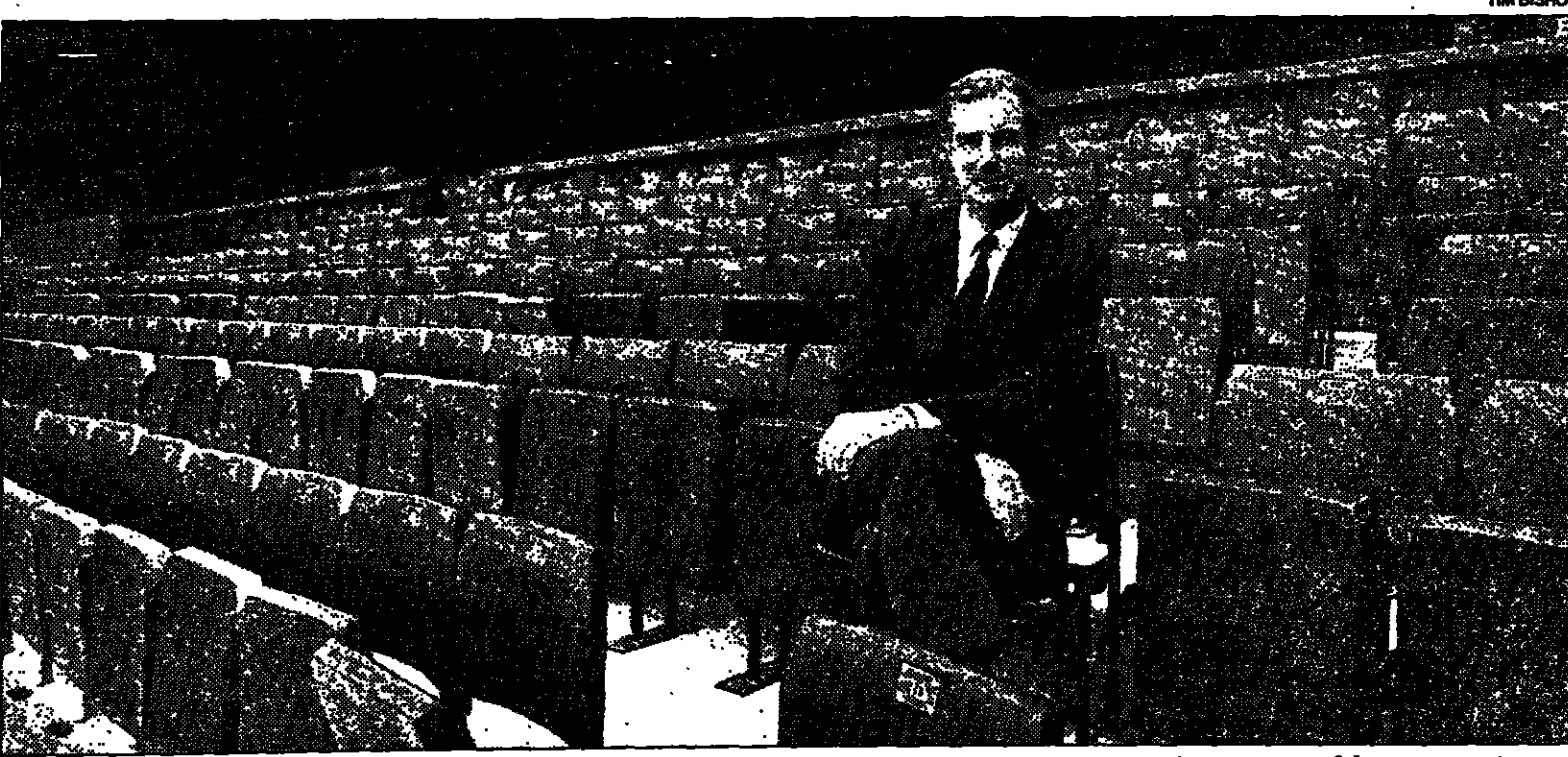
lion, the incentive for further study is limited. The real aim is Graf's No. 1 spot.

"Monica is the star of the future, but no one should count Steffi out," Tiriac says. "She's still a better athlete than Monica. Steffi has dominated the game from the baseline, but now she is faced by someone who has refined the Graf method, who hits the ball as hard as she does from both sides. Suddenly, Steffi has a lot to prove."



How Karoly Seles sees his daughter's task at Wimbledon

Fighting for traditions amid demands for major changes



Waiting for the show to begin: Chris Gorrage, Wimbledon's chief executive, amid the seats on the old standing room area of the centre court

A different but safer Wimbledon

By ANDREW LONGMORE

QUITE openly, Chris Gorrage describes the last ten months as the worst in his 17 years at Wimbledon. That means they must have been bad because Gorrage, chief executive of the All England Club, is not a man given to histrionics or dramatic pretension. He is a pessimist, he says, though whether he was one before he discovered the Safety at Sports Ground Act, each sub-clause of which he must now know by heart, is hard to tell.

A chartered surveyor by training, he has come to appreciate the mentality and the skill of the tightrope-walker. Just four days before the Championships were due to start, Wimbledon had not yet received its final safety certificate from Merton Borough Council. Without it, the Championships could not go ahead.

The Council had assured Wimbledon that there would be no problems, which was probably why this week Gorrage was looking like a person in need of a long holiday, not someone contemplating suicide. Yet only he knows exactly what the last

ten months of negotiation and counter-negotiation, of planning meetings and careful step-by-step defence have meant.

"I haven't slept as well as I would normally have done over the last few months. It's been a roller coaster of uncertainty and it's not just me. All the staff here have been affected in one way or another. But even in our darkest hour last October, I never thought the Championships wouldn't go ahead."

The result of all the hard campaigning is that the atmosphere of this year's Championships will be irrevocably changed but that Wimbledon will be one of the safest sporting venues in the country. The unanswered question is whether the former had to be sacrificed to achieve the latter.

The ever zealous Merton Borough Council said "yes"; Wimbledon said "no", arguing that the Championships had very little in common with football, the sport for which the Act was chiefly designed, and should therefore be treated as a special case. In the end, it became an exercise in damage limitation.

"At one point, it seemed that the whole nature of the Championships would be changed," Gorrage said. "We might have had to abandon the public ballot and have no tickets on sale on the day and no return sales in the evening. Slowly we managed to salvage those traditions."

When the certificate, a lengthy document outlining all the agreed safety procedures, came through it was the cause of only limited rejoicing in the oak-lined panels of the world's most famous tennis club. Wimbledon will never quite be the same again.

The standing room area, one of the happiest features of life on centre court, has been replaced by seats. Spectators will no longer be able to drift from show court to show court or queue to get into the centre court.

There will still be an evening entry, but everyone will need a ticket, so ticket-holders departing early must leave their tickets to be resold. It will be the most orderly Wimbledon on record; hopefully, not the most sterile.

"We have tried to anticipate some of the problems, but inevitably others will crop up

as we go along. Not too many, I hope," Gorrage said.

If, this year, there will be an enormous sigh of relief when the first ball of the Championships is struck on Monday, traditionally the largest cheer among the 70 permanent staff at the club is reserved for the last ball on the final Sunday.

"The fortnight is a love-hate relationship. Beforehand, it's like preparing for an exam. You're pretty exhausted even before the first day. During the fortnight it's like a cross-country race. You have to pace yourself and hope that you get there in the end," Gorrage said.

"The satisfaction comes when you see people enjoying themselves. For me, it's just a whole host of problems which demand immediate decisions. It is at other times of the year that you have time for reflection."

Many of those problems are generated by the extra staff needed to run one of the most profitable shows in the sporting calendar. From 70, the number of employees rises to around 1,500 for the fortnight. Some 6,000 photo passes have to be issued to cope with the influx of journalists, umpires,

ballboys, carpenters, cleaners and caterers.

In his 11 years as secretary and chief executive, Gorrage has also presided over an enormous increase in profits: from £500,000 to just over £9 million. But preserving the unique traditions of Wimbledon is, he feels, worth much more.

"We try to put quality before money. If we ever changed that, then I believe Wimbledon would be a lesser event," as, I suspect, do his committee and the 375 full-time club members who have the free run of the grounds and the clubhouse throughout the year.

Wimbledon membership is one of the most prized in sport and as no one ever retires from Wimbledon it's a question of checking the obituary columns and hoping for acceptance. Some put their names on the waiting list in the 1920s and are still waiting.

Gorrage, a good player himself not that many years ago, first joined the staff as the assistant secretary in 1973 but still finds it difficult to define the attraction of Wimbledon. "It just gets into your blood."

Never quite the same since Borg's final bow

For me, Bjorn Borg was the great symbol of Wimbledon. My memory preserves him clear yet remote, a loping Nordic god, swaying strongly and swiping slowly within a green and sunlit square.

Every year, over five years, for two weeks, there was Borg: long hair, long chin, Jackie Stewart eyes, shirt stretched over hunched back and wrinkling into concave chest, tennis that rumbled and thrilled like thunder and lightning. Every year began with him being nearly eliminated in a first-round five-setter; every year ended with him sinking to his knees in the turf as champion.

Borg never spoke, and he never played doubles, an activity which might have entailed speaking. He was aloof and almost characterless, but he and Wimbledon loved each other. Neither of them was ever quite the same again after the great disaster of 1981, that unprecedented day when the ice-Borg was splintered by the Titanic; or by a rude upstart, disguised as Harpo Marx, wearing a post-lobotomy bandage.

Before McEnroe came along, it was always Borg and Connors, the silent Swede and the runty American. Greta Garbo and Mickey Rooney. In those days, Connors was the bad man, but now he has become incredibly popular, his every shot being greeted by cheers which sounded like the hysterical wails of over-excited babies.

Like almost anyone who stays around long enough, Connors has become a Good Old Boy, loved by people far too young to know what he is really like. What do they know of the days of his three-quarter-length sailor socks with the blue tassels, the days when he spat in his hand and tipped his toes on the grass, the days when he dated Chris Evert, the great days of his mother, Gloria Connors? Time was when Gloria's vulgar shouts of encouragement (*go awn, Jimbo!*) were enough to make Dan Maskell turn in his commentary box, but he had

not met John McEnroe then. Connors is a showman, like Alex Higgins. Some sportsmen create a sense of drama around themselves because they are ever-responsive to the emotional graph of a game, and the spur of adversity can liberate their most dazzling capabilities. Connors always gives his all, and with it superlative spectator value; coupled with the fact that his baseline game, with its sneeze of a service and nifty tactics, is infinitely preferable to the prevalent crash-bang-wallop technique.

Becker's serve-and-volley game has a certain gingerly pop, and I'll watch Zivojinovic pound away until, well, until Wimbledon is over. But really, what is serve-and-volley all about? A lot of ball bouncing, a lot of looking across to where the ball should be going, a lot of revving up (McEnroe scoring heavily here): a throw into the air, an effortful grunt and — good Lord, what is that ball doing at the bottom of the net? It is server's ball. Despite the fact that it is practised 25 hours a day, eight days a week, the service is not infallible: although its sheer power can hurtle a player into a Wimbledon final.

The first exponent in my memory of classic wham-bam-thank-you-line-judge serve-and-volley was the huge American, Roscoe Tanner, who came — as the commentators never failed to point out — from Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. He, or rather his service, gave Borg a run for his money in the 1979 final. The next year, however, Roscoe arrived at Wimbledon with his straight, all-American hair frizzed into a finger-in-the-light-socket perm. As if in rebellion, Roscoe's service left him, and when Roscoe's service left him, Roscoe had had it.

I have often wondered how much better grass-court tennis would be if the players were only allowed one serve. Without doubt, the most boring Wimbledon match I have ever seen was when I sat agast as John McEnroe and

Buster Mottram bounced balls, revved up, tied shoelaces, walked to and fro, grunted, threw tantrums, served aces and so on for the longest two hours of my life. This confirmed me in my opinions that, first, despite his brilliance, McEnroe is generally unwarding to watch; and second, people who say "He's the only one who lives it all up" are people who do not really like tennis.

But in the greatest Wimbledon match of all, the one between McEnroe and Dan Maskell, I think that Dan has won, for it is McEnroe who has become the anomaly. A few years back, he was tyrant king of a court of brash, evil-tempered Americans (like Hank Pfister, whose skull was utterly straight at the back); those awful princelings appear to have died out, leaving McEnroe the sore and rather outdated representative of rudeness. No one else, I think, could keep it up.

Anyone can lose their temper, any time, over nothing. After his supreme reign, the field was left open for some pleasant characters (Becker, Edberg, Wilander) to come in and be dubbed "gentlemen" by the grateful commentators, chiefly because they confined their vocabulary of four-letter words to "ball", "drop" and "shot".

Thank heavens that for a while we were spared the sight of Gerald Williams cornering McEnroe for an interview after a match, looking at him as if he alone really understood his problems. McEnroe would mumble and we would see a shot of him playing his electric guitar and the next day he would be tearing out what was left of his hair and telling the umpire that "Hitler was a good man compared with you".

But things are looking up. Gerald has taken his Wimbledon wisecrack act to BSB. John is 31. And — most important of all — the Agincourt spirit of the BBC has defeated its rival's vulgar attempt to buy the tournament.

LAURA THOMPSON

Personal and Multi-user Solutions from IBM, the Official Supplier of Information Technology to The All England Lawn Tennis Club and The Championships, Wimbledon.

The bitter legacy of official misconduct

Sir Richard Hadlee, at Lord's for New Zealand in the second Test this weekend, outlines the problems he has faced in an international cricket career spanning 18 years

Umpires, as a general breed, are all too often the curse of cricket; it is a human failing to dispute or disagree with decisions made by umpires — or by those in control of any sport, for that matter. I have the greatest respect for the job umpires do — they have the most demanding refereeing assignment of any sport — but I know I have not been happy with some umpiring displays I have witnessed. It is a sad fact in today's cricket world, that, apart from in England, scarcely a Test series goes by without some haranguing about umpires.

In England, the white-coated ones are consistently a level removed from their colleagues around the world.

The bitterness about umpires reached an all-time low with events in the England series against Pakistan in late 1987. I do not support Mike Gatting's confrontational attitude used against the Pakistani umpire, Shakoor Rana; players should never stoop to such levels of umpire abuse, let alone resorting to physically handling an umpire, or prodding him. At the same time, the cricketer in me sympathises with the anger Gatting felt at the time. It was his way of expressing the players' annoyance at the depths to which umpiring standards slipped during that series. When Gatting blew up at Shakoor, he was doing what countless other touring teams have felt like doing for years.

Cricket turned ugly in that series — and there was still more nastiness much closer to my home last season. Again, the Pakistanis were the central figures. Ultimately, the abbreviated Test series of two matches provided little in the way of memorable cricket, but the touring team's antics about the standard of New Zealand umpiring ensured that the series was unforgettable for quite the wrong reasons.

It was clear from the outset that Pakistan arrived in New Zealand determined to set upon our umpires as part of some premeditated plan to show the world that something had to be done in the cause for neutral officials. The players abused and swore at Steve Woodward and Brian Aldridge during the first Test in Auckland, Imran Khan berated the quality of decision-making and Pakistan's manager, Imtiaz Khan, claimed Woodward and Aldridge were "biased in favour of the New Zealand batsmen".

The Pakistanis simply never let up with their call for neutral umpires throughout the tour and there was no doubt that they subjected our umpires to undue pressure and abuse.

The umpires involved in the series withstood the psychological pressure well, although it is fair to say that decisions went against Pakistan — as they did against us. The difference was, we got on with playing the game, whereas the Pakistanis let the umpires get to them; they did not endear themselves to the public by making excuses and by perpetuating their crusade for neutral umpires. After all, just who are the Pakistanis to complain about umpiring standards when the most acute problems have historically occurred in Pakistan? Were they trying to cover up for their own inadequacies in Pakistan by calling for neutral officials? Enough is enough. There are difficulties all around the world with umpires, but whatever the strife, the game still has to be played; perhaps teams should first look at their own shortcomings before chastising the umpires.

The incidents on England's tour of Pakistan in late 1987, then Pakistan's trip to New Zealand last summer, may yet turn out to be the awakening the game needed — if the International Cricket Conference wanted evidence that international umpiring must be seriously addressed.

Events in those campaigns once again resurrected arguments about introducing a panel of international umpires, or neutral umpires as some people call them. I

am a supporter of the panel concept. The trouble with world cricket is that whenever there are fires like these, authorities just let it ride in the belief the passing of time will somehow eradicate the problems. The next series in Pakistan will probably recycle the same old worries, which is just what happened with Mahboob Shah when Australia played there in late 1988; seven of his decisions were questioned in the first Test.

Some people have harped on the need for neutral umpires to stand in Test matches because the umpiring controversies and incidents have got out of hand. The question of umpires for Test cricket is not one of neutrality as far as I am concerned; it is one of competence and having the best umpires to do the job, irrespective of which country they come from. Ideally, I see the need for a panel of ten to 12 umpires who are paid a basic, and healthy, retainer, plus fees and expenses for standing in international matches as they would have to be on call or be appointed in advance for Test matches around the world. Obviously that could create complications for an umpire who had a steady job, and that is why financial compensation would be so vital.

While cricket has been beset by umpiring controversy before, the whole issue has now been highlighted and the game and the players deserve much better. If the umpires on Test duty are the most capable available, regardless of colour, creed or nationality, then I am sure players would more readily accept decisions in the dubious category, because the system would eliminate any thought of bias. There would have to be constant updating and assessment of these umpires, with those not rating with captains or assessors being replaced. It could not be a cosy little panel for the chosen ten or 12; like players, they would still have to perform.

The very thought of changing international cricket's umpiring structure tells something of the modern age's fixation with what is good and bad about sporting officials. Much is made of the fact umpires are now under intensive scrutiny from television cameras with the repeated replays of decisions given (or not given). While that can be very unfair on umpires, it is also a fact of sporting life that their moves will be analysed. Players are under just as much pressure to perform and behave on the field. If we make idiots of ourselves, then that is highlighted and umpires, despite their complaints, just have to accept the same consequences if they make mistakes.

Television can illustrate some very good decisions and some



Deep in thought: Sir Richard Hadlee, knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours List last week, considers the final goals of his glittering career

very bad ones. How often have we seen replays of a run-out showing a batsman two or three inches out of his ground and given not out by the umpire? Technically, the batsman was out, but really an umpire cannot rule that way on such a tight call. If he gives him out and replays show he was right, it could only be regarded as a fluke decision. It is the more blatant incidents which deservedly irritate players — and embarrass umpires — which television can highlight.

Poor decisions in Tests are utterly critical. One bad one, or a collection of them, might not only alter the outcome of a match but also severely affect a player's livelihood.

Respect between players and umpires is a two-way business, which is ultimately so dependent on an umpire's personal qualities and ability. He must know the book, obviously, but that is nowhere near enough in itself. An umpire needs to have a feel for cricket and, if he has played the game at a reasonable level — and particularly up to first-class standard — it makes a big difference. Then, he can understand player frustrations, match tensions and pressures on the field, as well as being able to sniff out and quell

potentially explosive situations. An umpire without the players' respect will invariably experience ugly confrontations.

The respect factor is more evident in English county cricket than anywhere else in the world. Players generally have respect for each other... and for the umpires. If a player cheats the system and becomes known for nicking the ball and not walking, it soon gets around the counties and he will find marginal decisions going against him. If you are known for fair play, then you are helping each other.

An umpire has to make decisions on what he hears, what he sees, and on the actions or reactions of the players involved. They are the three basic elements I believe an umpire should use, and because all three go together, a decision should be spontaneous. He should not, as sometimes happens in New Zealand, delay his decision for something like 20 seconds.

In England, the pattern is different from New Zealand. If there is an appeal for a catch behind, the umpire will deliberately wait to give the batsman the chance to walk; if the batsman

does not, then the umpire will give him out.

Umpiring is demanding, but umpires can help themselves by being a little more laid-back and relaxed about it. I like umpires who find the time to have a brief chat with a player standing nearby, the batsman at the non-striker's end, or the bowler. Perhaps the umpire might tell the bowler he is close to no-balling or is in danger of being "called" for running on the pitch. I believe an umpire needs to chat to players, just to break the intense periods of concentration and, at the same time, win the players over a bit with his demeanour.

If umpires refuse to open communication lines, you will find the players putting pressure on them. I know I have been guilty of standing my ground and forcing the umpire to make the decision instead of leaving when I have known I was out.

There was such a case in the third Test against Australia in Auckland in 1985-86; I nicked a delivery from Bruce Reid which was caught by the wicketkeeper, Tim Zoehrer, and, instead of going, I stood and left the decision to the umpire. I hit the ball all right, but was given not out. I

know it is not right; it was a case of double standards on my part. However, I took that approach because there were so many batsmen I felt I had genuinely dismissed who were not given out, or had not walked. So, why should I? It is one of the unpalatable by-products of poor umpiring on the lack of rapport between player and umpire.

When I think of umpires I have been involved with, "Dickie" Bird, of England, is unquestionably the first who comes to mind. He is one of umpiring's great characters, as much a personality as any player. But he is not merely an infectious character; he is undoubtedly the best umpire in world cricket and enjoys enormous respect from most players. Bird is nervous and fidgety, and is instantly recognisable by the little idiosyncrasies and gestures which are part of his make-up.

As an umpire, he is an outstanding operator. To me, he is somebody special, one of those umpires who stands no nonsense and gets on with the game... but in a friendly manner. He would ask me how my father was, or what had

happened to John Reid, Bert Sutcliffe and other players of that era. He is not afraid to have a private conversation during play — even if it is something completely divorced from the action — just to give him a break.

Otherwise, he will tell you whether you are bowling well, or he might offer the theory you will get a certain batsman out soon. "Keep bowling there, he might nick one," he would say to me. "Dickie would smile as I beat the batsman again, as if he got a real thrill out of it. Got the batsman out and his look would say: 'I told you so!' In a way, he motivated me. It is pertinent, too, that he is an umpire who has played first-class cricket (for Yorkshire and Leicestershire).

One modern-day development which leaves me completely cold is the idea of having women umpires. For the first time, we had a woman standing in top-level cricket in 1986-87 — Pat Carrick, who made her first-class debut in New Zealand in a Shell Trophy match. I also happened to be playing in.

I could not question her ability, I thought that she did the job satisfactorily. But, while she may stay on the first-class panel, will she ever control a Test match and, if not, is she depriving our top operators from gaining much-needed experience and practice for international matches?

While I cannot see Carrick making it to Test level, it is still perfectly conceivable that she could. She proved her ability to gain first-class status and could logically be scored well by captains in their reports, even better than some of those umpires already on the international panel. That would suggest she is capable of standing in Test matches — but should she? Technically there may be no reason why she should not. We may soon see women rugby union referees in a similar situation. But can you imagine a woman officiating in a rugby international between the All Blacks and Australia? The International Rugby Football Board would never let it happen.

Of course, women have a point when they state men officiated women's matches, so why not the reverse? But... it is not for me.

Adapted from Richard Hadlee's *Rhythm and Swing*, an autobiography with Richard Becht, published last month by Souvenir Press (£15.95).

Breakdown of a professional under the microscope

A professional sportsman in today's pressure-filled world needs the thickest skin possible and there are times I wished I had an armour-plated covering to deflect the snipes and wisecracks fired at me. I have been called many things during my cricket career. It might surprise those cynics who insist I am an automaton to know that I have normal feelings, and am as sensitive as the next person.

When I started my New Zealand Test career in 1972-73, I never envisaged my privacy would be threatened. It was so different then. New Zealand was struggling, and did not have the profile it was to assume in the 1980s. There was an old-fashioned charm about the game. There was not the suffocating attention which developed a few years later with the onset of massive television exposure.

Cricket, though, has burgeoned, with television generating unprecedented awareness. Sadly, the price we have to pay for being associated with top-level international sport is this intrusion on our privacy... something I have never really got used to.

Everything was catching up with me towards the end of 1983 as I tried to meet too many demands; I simply could not cope with one promotion after another and an endless round of after-dinner speaking engagements. Something had to give. It was me. I experienced physical and mental depression, blurred vision, excruciating

headaches, chest pains and had a pre-occupation with death. I had grave doubts whether I would ever play cricket again.

A visit to a doctor gave me one of the most obvious answers — I had to start saying "no" to requests for my time. But everything was crowding in on me and playing the home series against England was the furthest thing from my mind. Then Graham Felton, who works at the Institute of Management in Christchurch, asked to run a course to prepare the Canterbury team mentally for the 1983-84 Shell series campaign. He struck a chord with me instantly. He spent only three hours with the Canterbury team, but it was the beginning of the end of my lowest times.

His simple message involved setting goals in life and adhering to them. My way of adopting the Felton gospel was to list key words and phrases on a card, which I have carried in my cricket bag ever since. I pop up the lid of the bag and there are all the ingredients which help to put my life in order — fear is negative, desire is positive, simulation, making it happen, visualising what I want to happen, belief, rewards, control, wanting to achieve, enjoyment and being happy with my performance. It all seems so straightforward, but the success of the scheme is putting it into effect — making it happen.

My breakdown was dramatic and frightening, but it showed I was susceptible, like everyone else, to everyday pressures.

Irritatingly, this phase in my life and other controversies I have been involved in, brought critical assessment of my personality and character. I was described, among other things, as being "austere" and "morose". On consulting my dictionary, I discovered austere meant "harsh, stern" and morose meant "gloomy, sullen". I have been called moody, brooding, cold-blooded, clinical, mechanical, robot-like, big-headed and selfish, plus countless other unmentionables. I am understandably touchy about such assaults. I view them as character assassination, with the inner me — and not Richard Hadlee the cricketer — being targeted unfairly. As a professional cricketer, I may become public property, but the real me is a private person.

There is a popular perception of me being the tough, cold, unemotional professional. I can be rather unsmiling and cool on the field, because I try to keep a lid on my emotions. I have to... there is obvious danger in becoming too excited, excited or elated over on-field happenings. I need to keep some sort of control. I am single-minded, but I have to be to succeed. I strive for excellence, aspiring to perfection; I know it can never be achieved, but I try.

Being brought up with a family background like mine ensured I would have a disciplined approach to life and to my chosen sport. With my father captaining New Zealand and my brothers all playing cricket, there had to be some rub-off. Just

being a Hadlee was pressure enough to make the most of my ability in cricket, and yet none of us — and least of all my mother — ever thought any of us would one day make a living out of the game.

Dad's methodical approach as an accountant was reflected in his attitude to sport and life. He was so ordered and there is no question I have been strongly influenced by his values, especially on discipline. Dad, too, has always revelled in facts and figures — through both necessity and fascination — and I have been much the same. Averages, budgets and statistical performance have been to me a passion bordering on obsession.

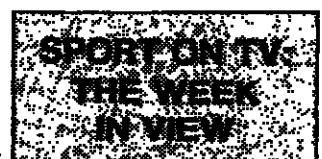
My hunger for cricket figures started at primary school and ultimately this statistics mania became important to me in terms of my overall record, my contribution to my team's performance and as a source of motivation.

If I finish a spell with one or two wickets, I say to myself: "That's not good enough. I have to do better when I come on for my next spell." In time, those many targets would become bigger ones. I set myself for five-wicket bags, turning that into a world record; I wanted ten wickets in a match, and then the world record for Test wickets. I have never chased these goals at the expense of my team but the pursuit of a target drives me on to a better performance, which, in turn, has to benefit the team.

Capriati stands a world apart from the pioneering Maiden

DURING the next few days, two sportswomen will take up leading roles on our television screens. Both have their hair cut with a fringe... and that is about all they have in common. One is English, and 27 years of age; the other is American and 14; one will be seen to conquer 33,000 miles of ocean in nine months; the other has 130 million television viewers worldwide to conquer in two weeks; one began and ended her quest for private fame without a penny and in tears; the other starts her very public task as a multimillionaire before she has won anything.

When you watch the yachtsman of the year, Tracy Edwards, so very British, four feet and not very much (on *Maiden Voyage* on most ITV channels tomorrow at 2.45pm, and Grampian an hour earlier, and Border, Tyne Tees, Ulster and Granada today at 2.50) as she skippers her all-female crew



KEN LAWRENCE'S guide to the best in televised sport this week

around the world on *Maiden*, and then you take a first look at Jennifer Capriati play tennis at Wimbledon (weather permitting, some time on Tuesday), you will be looking at opposite ends of the sporting spectrum.

When Edwards began her battle to find a yacht and a crew to compete in the Whitbread Round the World Race, she was snubbed by 300 British companies ("Being a girl is like being disabled in yachting," Marie-Claude Feiler, one of the crew of *Maiden*, says). Finally, the venture was supported

by Royal Jordanian Airways in what Edwards describes as "the impossible dream in the ultimate challenge".

If your heart is not warmed by Edwards and her crew of 11 as they combat the Roaring Forties, Cape Horn, ice, snow, a tornado, icebergs bigger than that which sunk the Titanic and whales which can wreck a yacht with a flick of the tail, then your heart is cast in stone. Edwards had been a cook (the only job open to women) in the last Whitbread race but wanted "more of the challenge; to take women's yachting forward".

She needed £1½ million for a boat and a further £1 million to campaign with it. She might just as well have asked for Jupiter as ballast: it was not forthcoming.

Finally, she sold her house, bought a rather frayed-at-the-edges veteran of previous Whitbread races for £100,000 and

sought sponsorship in the Middle East. Without the airline's sponsorship, *Maiden* would not have sailed and *Maiden Voyage*, as this weekend's programme is so aptly named, would not be on your screens.

Miss Capriati, doing her homework in five-star hotels, was heaved into a swimming pool at the age of one by her father, a former Italian football player, so

that she would learn to swim; at three, she was playing tennis; at 13, she was so good she was "scary", according to Ion Tiriac, her coach.

She had also become a millionaire; her racket, clothes and shoe deals are worth \$5 million. One can but hope that her traumatic first Wimbledon (she is seeded twelfth) does not end in the same tears that Edwards shed as

she crossed the finish line at Southampton in *Maiden*.

Twenty-two BBC cameras and 100 miles of cable will send pictures from London SW19 to 130 million viewers in 72 countries over the next fortnight. That is very different from the first televised Wimbledon, in 1937, when Freddy Grisewood commented for 25 minutes on the men's final. Then, they had a

violinist standing in case of rain; today, Harry Carpenter takes the baton and fiddles his way through the raindrops.

The one constant factor of the tennis coverage is Dan Maskell. At 82, he has not missed one day's play at Wimbledon since 1929 and he will go on until he "doesn't feel the adrenalin flowing".

"His enthusiasm is undiminished," John Rowlinson, a television editor, said. "In Paris, when Graf lost to Seles, he forecast precisely what would happen. No one looks on Dan as an old buffer."

Not even the World Cup will interfere with the BBC's Wimbledon action (BSB has highlights each night at peak time). Both BBC and ITV have alternative schedules lined up for the World Cup over the next week. Eurosport will be showing every game but check the television pages daily.

England's next opponents are an improving team that might emerge as the dark horse of the 1990 World Cup

Well-balanced Belgium likely to prove a tough hurdle

SO NOW we know, England, for all the criticism they have received, have won their group, and the Republic of Ireland, for all the criticism they have received, have qualified for the knockout stage.

It is difficult sometimes to understand exactly what people want. Since that awkward opening game between the two countries, which resulted in such vitriolic comment, both England and Ireland have been involved in



GRAHAM TAYLOR
ON THE WORLD CUP

two tight and tense matches, neither of which produced the kind of flowing football associated with the game at the highest level.

But surely Egypt and the Netherlands should be held just as responsible for this state of affairs. It has been a

very hard group and to win it reflects great credit on England. Before a ball was kicked, the Netherlands were certainly favourites for the pole position and there were many who doubted that Ireland would even qualify.

So far in this tournament, Italy and West Germany have stood out as the teams having that little bit extra. But usually one team gets better as the competition progresses. Most people's votes for the team to take this role would be the

Netherlands or Brazil, but, bearing in mind that the former meet West Germany next, they will have to show a great improvement if they are to progress.

Either Argentina or Brazil must also go out in the next round and so why cannot England be the team that comes on strong? A couple of days of relaxation should also help and I am more than pleased that the game against Belgium on Tuesday is the last

match to played in the second round. England already know that, should they be successful, they will play either Cameroon or Colombia next. But the fact that they will also know who all the other quarter-finalists are, will, I am sure, help them to visualise a semi-final place.

Having said that, I can see England getting stronger. But after seeing the other teams, my dark horses are Belgium! They beat South Korea and Uruguay comfortably and

with three regular members of their team absent, the 2-1 defeat at the hands of Spain did not truly reflect the game.

I have been extremely impressed with Enzo Scifo, who has played in a manner that justifies all of the comments made about him when he first entered the international scene as an exciting 17-year-old. He was not able to live up to this early reputation and was not deemed a success during his stay in Italy. But since playing for Auxerre, he

has matured greatly and has all the makings of a world-class player. England will ignore him at their peril.

Eric Gerets, aged 36, will return after a one-match suspension and with Jan Ceulemans moving from midfield to attack, Belgium have looked a solid team with a nice mix of flair and flexibility.

If they possessed a world-class goalkeeper, I would be much bolder in my prediction. But I sense a definite weakness

in Michel Preud'homme and it is one that I hope England will be able to exploit.

The change of tactical approach, has, I believe, gone a long way to helping the England players believe in themselves and the outside influences, which can be so important in creating or destroying morale, should now take on a more positive note. On paper, the route to the semi-final looks good, but when was a game of football ever won or lost on paper?

THE PATH TO THE FINAL

SECOND ROUND		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINAL		FINAL	
Sun June 24 (4pm) Turin		Sat June 30 (4pm) Florence		Tue July 3 (7pm) Naples		Sun July 8 (7pm) Rome	
BRAZIL							
ARGENTINA							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Tue June 26 (4pm) Verona		Sat June 30 (8pm) Rome		Wed July 4 (7pm) Turin		Sat July 7 (7pm) Bari	
SPAIN							
YUGOSLAVIA							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Mon June 25 (4pm) Genoa		Sun July 1 (4pm) Milan		Sun July 1 (8pm) Naples			
REP OF IRELAND							
ROMANIA							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Mon June 25 (8pm) Rome							
ITALY							
URUGUAY							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Sat June 23 (8pm) Bari							
CZECHOSLOVAKIA							
COSTA RICA							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Sun June 24 (8pm) Milan							
WEST GERMANY							
NETHERLANDS							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Sat June 23 (4pm) Naples							
CAMEROON							
COLOMBIA							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	
Tue June 26 (8pm) Bologna							
ENGLAND							
BELGIUM							
Scorers		Scorers		Scorers		Scorers	

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
Final table		Final table		Final table		Final table	
Italy		Cameroon		Brazil		W Germany	
Czech		Romania		Costa Rica		Yugoslavia	
United States		Sweden		Colombia		UAE	
Results		Results		Results		Results	
(1) 1 AUSTRIA (0) 0		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 2 SWEDEN (0) 1		(0) 0 COLOMBIA (0) 2	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
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(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
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(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
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(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
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Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
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Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
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(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
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Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
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Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5		(1) 1 CZECH (2) 5	
Schuster 78		Romania 41, 54		Brazil 40, 52		W Germany 29, 63	
(in Rome, June 9)		(in Bari, June 9)		(in Turin, June 10)		(in Bologna, June 10)	
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FORM FOCUS

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FORM FOCUS

[illegible]

FORM FOCUS 30

2:30 Postcard
 3:00 Film
 3:30 A Night in the Country
 4:00 Northern Exposure
 4:30 A Night in the Country
 5:00 A Night in the Country
 5:30 Movie

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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

(1)	0-50	HAT BAMPEN	12
(2)	0-50	ARABIAN	12
(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(4)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(5)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(6)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(7)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(8)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(9)	0-50	ALIVE	12

Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

(1)	0-50	HAT BAMPEN	12
(2)	0-50	ARABIAN	12
(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(4)	0-50	ALIVE	12
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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

(1)	0-50	HAT BAMPEN	12
(2)	0-50	ARABIAN	12
(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

(1)	0-50	HAT BAMPEN	12
(2)	0-50	ARABIAN	12
(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

(1)	0-50	HAT BAMPEN	12
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(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

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(9)	0-50	ALIVE	12

Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

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Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

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(2)	0-50	ARABIAN	12
(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
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(6)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(7)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(8)	0-50	ALIVE	12
(9)	0-50	ALIVE	12

Long Handicap: 15-20

RHYTHM: 15-20

TEST ALPH

LONGHILL HIDEOUT C.H.

(1)	0-50	HAT BAMPEN	12
(2)	0-50	ARABIAN	12
(3)	0-50	ALIVE	12
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G-007

THE TIMES

Women struggle against gales to reach the semi-finals of the Eastbourne tennis championship

Biggest pay-day of Brown's career

Navratilova eyes ninth title

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

NICK Brown, the British No. 2, endured a day of sharply contrasting emotions at Direct Line Insurance Open in Manchester yesterday.

Just three hours after completing an impressive win over Mark Kratzman, of Australia, in a quarter-final match, Brown, from Warrington, returned to the centre court at the Northern Tennis Club but was defeated in his semi-final 6-4, 7-6, by Gail Bloom, a member of the Israeli Davis Cup team.

Brown's consolation for a week of congested tennis will come in the form of a cheque for £6,700, the biggest pay-day of his career and a welcome elevation in the world rankings.

"Despite my disappointment this has been a good week for me and it has given me a real boost. At the moment I am living with friends in London, but the money will help me to buy a place of my own," he said.

Earlier in the day, Brown had made light of intermittent rain and wind to beat Kratzman 6-1, 6-3. On Thursday, Kratzman had eliminated Michael Chang, the tournament's third seed and biggest draw.

Kratzman's forlorn attempt to counter his opponent's unerring accuracy service and neat passing game was hindered, to a certain degree at least, by the recurrence of an injury to his left arm.

"It is an on going problem. One I have had for a couple of years. If the season is improved by the end of the year I shall have to think seriously about an operation. However, I am confident that I shall be fit enough to take my place at Wimbledon. To be honest, it was not a major factor in my defeat because Nick played exceptionally well," he said.

Bloom's opponent in today's final will be either Peter Sampras, the No. 2 seed from the United States, or Eric Jelen, of West Germany.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: N. Brown (GB) bt M. Kratzman (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; G. Bloom (Isr) bt K. Jelen (Ger) 6-4, 7-6; P. Sampras (USA) bt E. Jelen (Ger) 6-3, 6-1; S. McInnes (GB) bt M. Kratzman (Aus) 6-4, 7-6.

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AFTER the wash-out of the previous day, a considerable amount of overtime was required to get back on schedule in the Pilkington Glass women's championships at Devonshire Park yesterday.

Unfortunately, the outside courts had shipped so much water, play was not possible until lunchtime, so the centre court had to bear the brunt of the work.

By afternoon, the first shift had finished. Martina Navratilova, Jana Novotna, Lori McNeil and Gretchen Majors reaching the semi-finals. The first two won in straight sets, the other two were even quicker than that, their opponents, Manon Bollegraf and Mary Joe Fernandez, being forced to retire with injuries.

To finish the day's business, a following wind was needed. But the organisers had not bargained for the howling gale which made standing up a major feat of balance and playing tennis a severe test of humour. The conditions favoured the experienced seariders and Navratilova, eight times Pilkington Glass champion, is now as much a part of June in Eastbourne as Punch

and Judy and the D'Oyly Carte company at the Winter Gardens.

But even in her twelfth season here, the defending champion was disconcerted by the strength of the wind which, at one point, reduced the match to an impasse when the ball girl was unable to throw the ball hard enough to reach Navratilova. She failed five times and eventually moved upwind, the circumstances, Navratilova and Natalia Zvereva manufactured some extremely good tennis, much of it, at least in the first set, played by the Russian.

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Mexico City lies in wait to examine the extremes of both mechanical and physical endurance

McLaren in search of treble success

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

IN ONE sense, everyone is riding high for the Mexican Grand Prix this weekend. They have no option because the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, named after the two motor racing brothers, Pedro and Ricardo, lies some 7,000 feet above sea level on the outskirts of Mexico City.

But the thin air at that height always poses a problem for teams, not only because their engines are rendered breathless by the altitude but also because the frenzied activity synonymous with any Formula One paddock and pit area takes a considerable human toll.

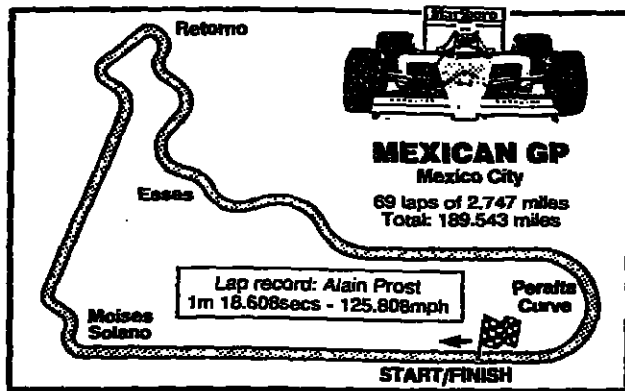
Few people, even among those who escape the dreaded local intestinal disorder euphemistically known as "Montezuma's Revenge", find it easy to perform at their best at this venue, which is why a good result tomorrow afternoon will be more than

usually satisfying. Every circuit poses its problems and, in this case, the most significant one is its unpredictability, especially its response to tyres. In recognition of this, Goodyear, who normally offer their teams a choice of two compounds for dry conditions, have added a third for this race, while Pirelli are offering their drivers two types of qualifying tyre.

The circuit is tough on drivers, too. Parts of it, despite some resurfacing, remain sufficiently bumpy to give them a considerable battering, but the biggest challenge is to be consistently competitive through the final corner before the pits straight.

Perhaps corner is a misleading word because it is a 180-degree slightly banked curve from which the quickest cars emerge at close to 200mph.

It would be formidable enough if it was smoothly surfaced but there is a notori-



ous bump at one point which, if not taken with great precision, can throw a car disastrously off line. Even the best drivers feel a sense of relief every time they get it right and, in the race, they will have to do so 69 times.

McLaren have won this race for the past two years - Alain Prost in 1988 and Ayrton Senna last year - and the

completion of the treble seems the most likely outcome tomorrow.

Senna, the championship leader, is once again the firm favourite although he may be pressed hard by his team partner, Gerhard Berger - a surprise winner for Benetton in 1986 - now that his lanky frame sits more comfortably

in the recently modified cockpit of his McLaren.

Like Prost, Nigel Mansell will be disappointed if the reliability which Ferrari demonstrated in the last race in Canada is not continued this weekend, though whether they will be able to match the McLaren pace in race trim is another matter.

If they can, a fine battle is in prospect, with the possibility of the Italian team scoring a victory which has eluded them since the race's revival five years ago, and 16 years after their only win with Jacky Ickx in 1970.

The Williams-Renaults of Riccardo Patrese and Thierry Boutsen will pose a threat, if their cars can be satisfactorily tailored to the circuit's handling demands, while the Benetton-Fords, which showed up so well in Canada, should enable Nelson Piquet and Alessandro Mannini to

Win a luxury day out for two at the British Grand Prix

A SPECIAL visit for two people to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone next month is the prize in this competition in *The Times*. The winner will be the sender of the first correct entry drawn from those received by the closing date. All the questions refer to Formula One grand prix racing, and exclude the Mexican Grand Prix this weekend.

Champagne breakfast at a nearby country house, followed by helicopter flight to the Silverstone circuit. Lunch in the Marlboro Suite overlooking the circuit. A close-up view of the Grand Prix itself. Tea after the race, and helicopter flight out of the circuit.

To enter, study the questions below, complete the entry form, and send it to

THE QUESTIONS

1. In which race did Ayrton Senna score his first grand prix win?
2. When did Silverstone stage its first British Grand Prix?
3. Which driver holds the record for grand prix wins?
4. How many grands prix has Nigel Mansell won?
5. Senna set a record of eight grand prix wins in 1988; whose record did he beat?

ENTRY FORM

Name
Address
Telephone

ANSWERS

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5.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: Employees (and their relatives) of *The Times* Newspapers Ltd, *Red Bull* (UK) Ltd or their agents are not eligible for entry. Entrants must be aged 18 or over. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence.

Popularity creates problems

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

MARLOW Regatta and Henley Women's Regatta, which are being held today, have both attracted entries of a size to warrant over 11 hours of racing.

Marlow, the traditional curtain-raiser to Henley Royal Regatta, is now beginning to suffer the same problems of popularity. Tony Evans, the secretary, has had difficulty in allocating sufficient enclosure badges to satisfy demand.

The total entry of 192 at Marlow features many crews who will compete at Henley, including nine American combinations who are already in this country.

Dartmouth and Yale are both in the Senior I Eights along with Westminster School - a leading contender, with Eton, for the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley.

Remarkably, the entry for Henley Women's Regatta exceeds that of Marlow and, at 198 crews and coxswains, shows an increase of 85 per cent since its inception in 1988.

Holden leads five-man team

By PETER BRYAN

BANANA-Falcon, the individual and team winners in the recent Milk Race, begin tomorrow's BP Exploration national professional road race championship with a team weakened by the absence of Shane Sutton, the squad captain.

Sutton, from Australia, who won the Milk Race, is not eligible to compete in the 135-mile title race at Witherssea on Humberside, reducing the team to five riders. It will, however, include the Milk Race runner-up, Rob Holden.

Tony Doyle's Ever Ready team, on the other hand, will be "over-strength", because the

CYCLING

limit of six riders in a squad does not apply to the championship and all their eight riders under contract compete.

Joey McLoughlin, a former Milk Race and Tour of Britain winner, is Ever Ready's obvious choice for the title, although he insists that the outcome is unpredictable.

Paul Curran, now unsponsored following the break up of Crown-Chafes, does not dismiss the chances of solo riders breaking the hold of Banana and Ever Ready.

Tomorrow, which is set aside throughout Europe for each

Britain bemused by match venue

From KEITH MACKLIN in PALMERSTON NORTH

TWO local league officials gave a low-key welcome to the tattered remnants of the Great Britain squad yesterday as they flew south from Auckland to this small university town for the first British Coal international tomorrow.

But the warmth of the welcome did not stop the touring team from wondering why the first international of an important series will be played here and not at a leading rugby league centre like Auckland or Christchurch.

The reason is that the match is being used as a propaganda and missionary vehicle by the New Zealand Rugby League, and yet the inevitable result will be only to worsen the tour debt at the turnstiles.

It is unlikely that the attendance will reach 5,000 tomorrow, though it might just do so if the weather is fine, whereas a first international of a series at Auckland could bring three or four times that number.

Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach, has told his players to put aside such matters and leave them to the management.

Their job is to prove the

RUGBY LEAGUE

critics wrong when they say that the squad, which has lost virtually a full international team through injuries and other withdrawals, is in no position to compete against a full-strength New Zealand side.

Great Britain are capable of winning against the odds but the result may hinge entirely on the scrum half duel between Gary Freeman, of New Zealand, and Bobby Goulding, the Great Britain teenager.

As Mike Gregory, the captain, said: "We can win if we stop Freeman."

MOTOR SPORT

Few worries for Comas and DAMS

From STEPHEN SLATER in MONZA, ITALY

THE fifth round of the International Formula 3000 championship here this weekend has imposed a rigorous schedule on the teams competing. Coming just a week after the previous race at Jerez, in southern Spain, the transporters have been forced to make a long drive across southern Europe to Milan with almost no time to repair damage and prepare their cars.

The team with perhaps the least worries on arrival here are the French DAMS. Eric Comas, driving one of their Lola-Mugen cars, took his second victory of the season at Jerez and it seems likely that he would have been followed closely by Allan McNish, his colleague, had the Scotsman, aged 21, not been delayed by a puncture and a broken wheel.

A close second at Jerez was Marco Apicella, the Italian who is driving for the Milanese First Racing team. Apicella has made it clear that he is hoping for a home win this weekend.

In the Willhire 24-hour race at Snetterton, in Norfolk, this weekend, 26 production saloon cars will be driven from 4pm today until 4pm tomorrow.

BOWLS

Kenton to skip Surrey

SURREY have reconstituted one of their ranks for the NatWest Bank Middleton Cup meeting with Kent, the holders, at Croydon today, a match that could decide the section winners.

John Kenton comes in at skip and John Dobson at No. 3, with Lee Dickson and Ray Otley forming the front end. The newcomer, Jamie Williams, the national under-18 singles champion, leads for Paul Vamvopoulos.

Williams returns

PAUL Williams, the Neath stand-off half, has rejoined Newbridge, the club where he began his rugby union career five years ago. Williams scored 282 points for Neath, the Welsh club champions, last season.



eat to live

They say you only get out of something what you put into it.

Which is true, where the body is concerned. That's why eating the right foods is very important.

Beef, pork and lamb, along with bacon and other prepared meat dishes are good examples.

Not only do they provide us with energy and vitality, but more importantly they work for the body.

They're a natural source of high quality protein, protein which is essential to life. Building healthy bones and muscle, helping growth and repairing bodily tissue.

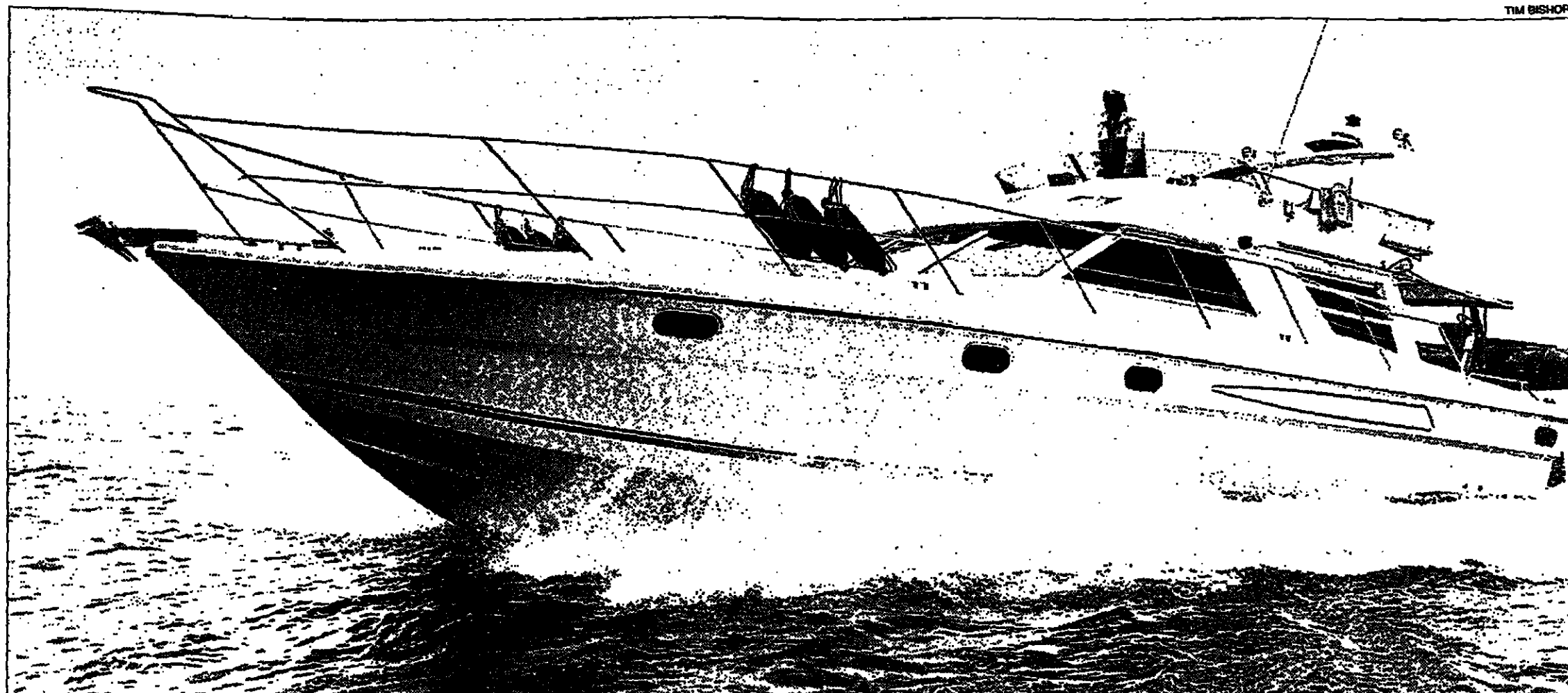
And when the body needs to fight infection or illness, the antibodies needed to fight them are made from protein.

So next time you sit down to a delicious piece of lean meat, remember it's what helps make a healthy body, healthier.

Meat & Livestock Commission, PO Box 44, Milton Keynes MK6 1AX.

BOATS

Luxury yacht owners are finding lucrative work for their vessels in the growing corporate entertainment market, Barry Pickthall writes



Dream boat: Lord Selsdon at the helm of the £300,000 White Eagle, which he plans to hire as a floating boardroom. 'It's a sin to leave a boat on a mooring. They have to be in constant use,' he says

Nautical tack with a business twist

owning a boat is a dream most people share, but when prices are pitched at the same level as a Mayfair pied-à-terre, bricks and mortar often have to take preference. Lord Selsdon, a director of the Midland Bank, has discovered a compromise to owning both: treat the boat as a corporate asset and charge it out as a business expense.

He owns two yachts, the Swan 44 sailing cruiser Scottish Hero, which is used as a charter yacht in the Aegean, and his latest, a Fairline 50, the flagship to a range of luxury sports cruisers built by Britain's only quoted production builders, Fairline Boats at Oundle, in Northants.

Lord Selsdon has several interests in the City, including developments in London Docklands and the latest Conrad Hotel at Chelsea Harbour. 'It's a sin to leave a boat on a mooring. They

have to be in constant use,' he says.

'A yacht has to be a legitimate part of the business and earn money accordingly. The market for corporate entertaining is expanding. This includes the demand for mobile conference rooms and floating grandstands at sporting events, such as Cowes Week where the going rate is up to £1,200 a day for a boat like this.'

Lord Selsdon bought White Eagle — the name his father used to wrestle under in charity bouts on the Isle of Dogs — a year ago as an added attraction for guests at his £125 a night hotel. Since then, Fairline Boats has accepted orders for more than a hundred of these £300,000 luxury craft.

'This was my first powerboat. It had to be British, it had to be large enough to hold parties for up to 25 and it had to represent good value,' he says. 'The Fairline is two-thirds the price of some Italian

marques and is holding its value well. If I had to sell it now, we would get back what we paid for it.'

With a range of up to 300 miles and a cruising speed of 25 knots, White Eagle can leave her berth on the Thames in the morning and be at Cowes or cruising up the Seine before nightfall.

Alternatively, the warmer waters of the Mediterranean are a three-day cruise away. The boat comes with a variety of labour-saving devices, including a bow-thruster to assist with manoeuvring, an electric anchor winch and autopilot, and radar and radio telephone. Below decks there is a dishwasher, laundry facilities, a microwave oven and air-conditioning.

Buyers of a Fairline 50 can choose between five interior layout options. All include a luxurious owner's stateroom in the bows with a double bed and ensuite shower

and toilet. Aft, there is a second 'heads' to starboard along with the main guest cabin and the option of a second double cabin on the opposite side (with or without ensuite toilet facilities) or an L-shaped dinette to enlarge the airy and well-equipped galley.

One of the main attractions for Lord Selsdon was the yacht's sumptuous saloon. Ten people can be seated with ease. With side-screens zipped round to enclose the aft cockpit, sliding glass doors dividing the two can be opened up to double the entertaining area.

'We can have parties for up to 25 guests,' Lord Selsdon says. He chose an open-plan layout, sacrificing one guest cabin for extra entertaining space and providing a separate two-berth cabin for crew or children under the cockpit floor in the stern.

'It's a mistake to have too many berths. Areas for entertaining are far more valuable,' he says. The

boat is equipped with two steering positions. One, on the large flybridge, seats six people and has duplicate controls in the main cabin for use during bad weather.

Power steering provides fingertip control making the boat remarkably responsive for her size. 'If you can drive a car, you can drive this boat once you have mastered how to manoeuvre her using the twin throttles. Most people we've had on board have learnt the ropes within a day.'

Lord Selsdon has some novel corporate plans for White Eagle. Apart from chartering the boat out for dockside parties in Chelsea Harbour, as a filming platform or for corporate entertaining on the Thames and Cowes, he believes the yacht has a future as a floating boardroom.

'I've installed a full communications system that includes a telephone, computer and fax machine. Directors can step on board

in central London and hold their meeting in total security. In the case of offshore companies, we merely have to whisk them into international waters 12 miles out in the Thames estuary.'

According to Lord Selsdon, the key to owning a luxury powerboat is to keep the boat working. That way everyone remains happy — including the taxman.

FAIRLINE 50 — WHITE EAGLE

Owner: Lord Selsdon.
Length overall: 53ft 2in (16.20m).
Beam: 15ft 1in (4.60m).
Draft: 3ft 6in (1.06m).
Berths: 8-10.
Displacement: 17 tons.
Engines: Twin Volvo diesels 480hp.
Top speed: 30 knots.
Construction: Fibre-reinforced plastic.
Price: From £260,000 ex VAT.
Builder: Fairline Boats Ltd, Oundle. Telephone: 0832 273661.

Laughter over the sea lanes

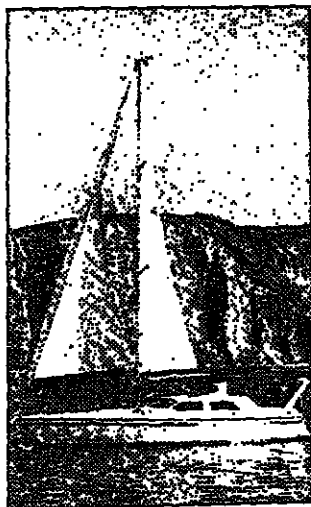
● A week after Tracy Edwards was awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours list for her efforts in the Whitbread Round The World yacht race, TVS is screening an hour-long documentary on the ITV network tomorrow at 2.45pm. The struggles, tears and laughter of the all-woman crew during their extraordinary voyage makes interesting viewing.

● If the exploits of the Whitbread Round the World yacht race have whetted your appetite for sailing, but not quite enough to voyage around the world, the Automobile Association publication *Yachting in the Northern Mediterranean* suggests alternatives. This handy reference, translated from Italian, provides course notes for six cruise itineraries around the coasts of Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Italy, France and Spain. Priced at £12.95, the guide is ideal for a charter or flotilla cruise, or for planning future voyages.

● 'Over the side is over' is the clean-up message to all yachtsmen from the Royal Yachting Association, which has just launched its own clean code and poster campaign. Sailors have long been barred from discharging marine toilets in Britain's canals and rivers, but now the association is pressing boat owners to fit holding tanks in craft used in coastal waters as well. The campaign warns yachtsmen to discharge effluent only when further than three miles out to sea and reminds everyone that it is against the law to dispose of any form of plastic over the side. The association also calls on local authorities and water companies to stop discharging raw sewage into the sea — a view shared by holiday makers, too.

● HM Customs has done away with the compulsory two-hour wait all yachtsmen have had to endure for possible inspection when returning from foreign parts. Instead, crews with nothing to declare merely have to hoist a yellow 'Q' flag when entering Britain's 12-mile territorial limits and can leave their yachts as soon as they arrive in port. The only requirement is for skippers to complete their declaration form and post these in the Customs mail boxes now set up in most marinas along the South Coast.

Old sailors who never cry

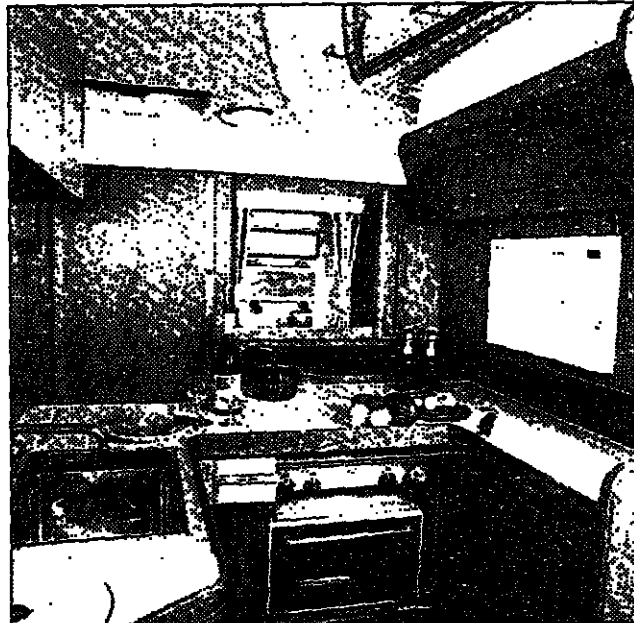


Cruising was never like this, writes Malcolm McKeag

Roy Barton is tanned and fit, a walking advertisement for having a mild heart attack and taking early retirement (and the handshake that goes with it). He lives mostly aboard his own yacht in one of the better marinas at Hamble, in Hants, planning his summer's voyaging while watching a busy boatyard's comings and goings.

Mr Barton owes his way of life not only to his own hard work and sound financial planning, but also to the appearance of the so-called deck-saloon yacht, a new type of cruising yacht which is changing the face of cruising under sail.

The description 'old man's



Home comforts: Eclipse 43, for an older market

boat' would seem to be the kiss-of-death to any marketing plan for a sailing yacht. Yet to a handful of British boat-builders it is an accolade: market research shows that almost three-quarters of those who buy large sailing yachts are over the age of 50; most sailing yachts, however, seem designed for would-be adventurers half that age.

The boat that has made Mr Barton's post-retirement life such a pleasure is the result of this research — a Moody 43 from one of Britain's oldest yacht yards, Moody's of Bursledon.

The concept is not the exclusive preserve of Moody's. Westerly, of Water-

looville, Northshore at Chichester and Hunter Boats, of Essex, are all builders with deck-saloon yachts in their ranges. All the yachts were born of the realisation that by the time people not born into wealth are able to afford the money and time for a big yacht, most will have lost the athleticism necessary to operate one.

In a traditional sailing cruiser, the cabin is deep inside the hull. The crew are either firmly indoors or totally outdoors — literally 'below' or 'on deck'. The deck-saloon yacht has its windows at deck level which provides a view without the need to go out. A second steering position, for use in bad weather, is for those sailors who like their fresh air

in controllable quantities. Yet the saloon itself is only one of many features taking cruising under sail away from its old image of salt-stained trousers, horny hands and every finger a marlin spike.

Advances in sail-handling equipment, developed for the 100ft-plus super-yachts, has led to automatic winches for the lines which control the sails while modern furling gears can roll a sail as if it is on a roller blind. Gone is the character-building struggle with a wind-torn sail and a too-small sail-bag on a heaving foredeck in a rising gale.

For Mr Barton, the developments have come at the right time. No millionaire, inherited or otherwise, Mr Barton began at the bottom, worked hard and prospered in the footwear industry. Boating was his main form of recreation.

After he suffered a mild heart attack doctors gave him the stark choice that has faced so many in his position.

'This boat has given me back my life,' he says. 'I'm 60 now, but I don't look it any more — I did when I was working. I tried motor boats, but I had to get back to sailing — but now I need nourishment, not punishment.'

ECLIPSE 43

Length: 43ft.
Sail area: 954sq ft.
Accommodation: owner's double cabin, plus 2 double guest cabins.
Cruising speed: under sail 6 to 8 knots; under power 8 knots.
Range: under power 1,000 miles; under sail unlimited.
Price: about £140,000 (ex-VAT).

efforts to highlight the dangers encountered at sea and the skills required to overcome them, accidents are bound to continue.

One can imagine the uproar if an established yachtsman was told that his race entry form was unacceptable because he did not hold a yacht master's certificate. However, the person concerned would have to reflect that with his or her experience, the examination should not be difficult.

Encouraging higher qualifications would not only reduce the number of disasters, but also remove a potential source of criticism. Each time a boat requires assistance the incident finds its way into the Press, creating a hostage to fortune if an interfering government ever decided to police safety in small pleasure craft at sea.

THE OCCASIONAL well-publicised accident in yacht races must cause concern to those responsible for safety within the sport. The recent fatality in the Round the Island Race and the Fastnet Race of 1979 are examples.

In both cases casualties occurred among less-experienced competitors, raising questions as to how people should gain sufficient training to participate safely in sailing events.

Boating has an established set of qualifications. These range from a competent crew certificate to ocean yacht master. All are issued by the Royal Yachting Association after an applicant has passed a test and sailed a set number of miles.

If there is any criticism of the certificates, it is that the description of the qualification earned is sometimes am-

Safe sailing built on sound sense

Robin Knox-Johnston calls for tougher qualifications to improve safety at sea

There is little glory to be had from achieving a simple goal, but immense satisfaction from attaining a difficult one. The syllabus and tests should encompass greater knowledge and, in particular, put more emphasis on time spent afloat.

The only drawback to the association certificates is that they are voluntary, and apart from the enthusiasm of the candidates, there is no in-

centive for people to acquire them. Holders of a yacht master's certificate, for example, do not obtain a discount on their insurance.

Even more surprising is that race organisers rarely demand the appropriate qualification before accepting an entrant for a race. It is still possible for a beginner to buy a boat and enter it for most races in the calendar. If race organisers fail to support the association's



going it alone

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The spunky X-2 can also take two. With enough performance for the enthusiast to cut a dash alone — or with a friend — the X-2 has optional pontoons for a more stable relationship.

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Atlantic executives set up business

By ANGELA MACKAY

SEVERAL former executives of Atlantic Computers, the collapsed computer leasing subsidiary of British & Commonwealth, have set up or are starting computer leasing businesses, often employing former members of the Atlantic sales team on a commission-only basis.

Sein Yin Cheng Kai On, Atlantic's former finance director, Jeremy Crame, a former board member, and Michael Rixon, another sales executive, are at the helm of Mellordata, part of the office systems arm of Sketchley. Between them, they have options worth 15 per cent of the company.

John Gillum, Sketchley's chairman, who steps down in August, was

once the chairman of Atlantic Computers and introduced Mr Crame and later Ms Cheng Kai On to the company.

Mellordata was part of Equipu, the photocopier business that Sketchley's old management bought and sold in two years. In the year to end-March, Mellordata reported a loss but the management expects the company to return an operating profit in the current year.

Mr Gillum and NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, introduced the Equipu deal to Sketchley in December 1986.

John Richardson, joint executive deputy chairman of Sketchley, said yesterday Ms Cheng Kai On had spoken to him about setting up a "mini-Atlantic" within the Sketch-

ley subsidiary. "The company cannot afford to be handing out parent company guarantees at this stage. We are in the process of reconstructing the balance sheet," said Mr Richardson.

Mr Crame and Ms Cheng Kai On had "gone a long way" to sorting out Mellordata's problems since they joined, he said.

The former managing director of the subsidiary resigned last summer at the conclusion of his earn-out period, followed later by the rest of the management. Mr Crame joined in October 1989 while Ms Cheng Kai On and Mr Rixon were employed in January.

Ms Cheng Kai On joined Atlantic in 1978 as a chartered accountant and became company secretary

when the company was floated in 1983. Two years later she became finance director when Mr John Tompkins resigned.

Other senior members of the Atlantic sales force, David Greenberg, Michael Cohen and Michael Northall, have established Stella CBF Computers and taken on many ex-Atlantic staff.

Capital Computers, headed by Steve Mason, a former Atlantic sales executive, also employed several sales staff on a commission-only basis. Blackspur managed by Nicholas Thomas, also a former Atlantic employee, is believed to have picked-up some staff.

A week ago, the trade and industry department announced it was conducting an investigation

into Atlantic's collapse under section 432 of the Companies Act 1985.

DTI inspectors are expected to concentrate on the preparation of Atlantic's accounts since the company was floated in 1983, with particular emphasis on 1988 and the 1989 interim results. British & Commonwealth bought Atlantic for £411 million in September 1988.

Atlantic's problems helped push B&C into administration five weeks after its parent announced it was writing off £550 million on the investment and appointed administrators to the group.

British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank, part of the ailing B&C group, yesterday sold its £1.5 billion swaps portfolio to Barclays de Zoete Wedd for an undisclosed price.

Pound and shares up on £1.3bn trade gap

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S balance of payments deficit fell by nearly £300 million last month from a revised figure of £1.6 billion to £1.32 billion. With the help of comments by John Major, the chancellor, on the need to maintain high interest rates the pound and shares gained.

Sterling closed up 0.2 on the effective rate index at 91.2. The FT-SE 100 index was up 8.2 points at 2,378.5.

Mr Major told the Conservative women's conference that inflationary pressures had been underestimated in the past and that a tight fiscal stance and high interest rates were needed.

Exports rose last month from £8.65 billion to £8.92 billion while imports were little changed at £10.45 billion. This left a trade deficit of £1.52 billion and, after an estimated surplus on invisible trade of £200 million, a current account deficit close to market expectations at £1.32 billion.

The Treasury said the narrowing of the deficit pointed to a revival of exports. "The volume of exports of manufactured goods, excluding erratic, in the three months to May was up 14 per cent on a year earlier, a very good export performance indeed." Excluding oil and erratic items, the volume of exports as a whole in the three months to May was 1½ per

cent higher than in the previous three months and 11 per cent higher than a year earlier. Imports on the same basis rose by 4 per cent on the previous three months and by 4 per cent on a year earlier.

Most of the rise in export volume was in capital goods, which rose by 5 per cent in the last three months against the previous three months, intermediate goods, up by 4½ per cent and consumer goods other than cars, ahead by 3½ per cent. On the import side, basic materials rose by 13 per cent, semi-manufactures by 7 per cent and consumer goods other than cars by 5½ per cent.

Revised provisional estimates of gross domestic product indicate that the economy grew by 1½ per cent in the first quarter against the same quarter of last year.

Over the same period, money gross domestic product increased by 8 per cent, the GDP deflator (a measure of underlying inflation) rose by 6½ per cent and Britain's real income as measured by gross national disposable income rose by ½ per cent. Among the components of GDP, analysed by expenditure, consumer spending rose by 3 per cent year on year and fixed investment by 2½ per cent. Indices of GDP volume were 117.5 for output, 116.7 income, 116.2 expenditure and 116.8 average (1985=100).

Micrelec profits surge 28%

DES JENSON



Green is good for profits: Michael Field, finance director, left, and David Willis, chief executive, of Micrelec

A SURGE in demand for unleaded petrol has kept Micrelec, specialist supplier of automated equipment for garage forecourts, working round the clock (Martin Barrow writes).

In the year to end-March, the USM-quoted company increased turnover by 60 per cent to £18 million as petrol retailers raced to keep up with competitors by installing pumps suitable for unleaded petrol.

But the increase in profits was tempered by a switch to a higher proportion of products bought in from other manufacturers and by an increase in product development costs.

Pre-tax profits surged 28 per cent to £2.10 million. Earnings per share, adjusted for a one-for-four rights issue in February, rose 22 per cent to 12.07p. Directors are recommending a final dividend of 2.8p for a total of 4p, against 3.3p last time. The company's shares gained 2p to 168p.

The February rights issue raised £3.1 million which was used to fund the acquisition of CGF Automation and its subsidiary, Contents Measuring Systems, which provide road tanker calibration services and products for tank-level measurement, for an initial consideration of

£950,000. Micrelec also acquired the freehold premises of its head office for £825,000.

CGF will expand Micrelec's existing range of products and services, which includes pump controls, electronic point-of-sale equipment, funds transfer and systems management, to form what David Willis, chief executive, describes as a "tank to bank solution". Group companies include Normond, a supplier of underground storage tank gauges, and Letronic, which installs and services petrol pumps.

Once demand for equipment for unleaded petrol settles down Micrelec hopes to benefit from the launch of new

systems to improve safety and environmental control in petrol stations. The company expects to spend about £1.5 million on new product development in the current year.

Mr Willis said that although competitive pressures were intensifying previous investment in new products and the existing order book indicated "excellent prospects for continued growth".

Micrelec also announced yesterday the appointment of Michael Field as finance director. Mr Field a former executive of BOC and Ultramar, joins the company from Distec, a producer of compact discs.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rank attacks Mecca over past earnings

MECCA shareholders should concentrate on the present and future earnings of their company, not the past, says Michael Gifford, chief executive of Rank Organisation, which this month launched a £512 million hostile bid for the company. Mecca has described the bid as "paltry", but Mr Gifford believes the description is "mistaken and misleading".

The disagreement centres on the likely exit price earnings ratio. At 8.2, it is a 35 per cent discount to the FT Actuaries leisure index p/e of 12.6, says Mecca. If exceptional and non-recurring items are included, as they are with the index, a fair comparison would establish the Rank offer price multiple at 15 times, and show a 19 per cent premium to the index, counters Rank. The consensus of financial analysts' forecasts for 1990 indicates that Mecca's earnings per ordinary share will fall by 21 per cent compared with 1989.

TNT steps up plans for East

TNT, the international transport group, said it planned to expand its worldwide Skypak courier service in Eastern Europe by "establishing joint ventures with experienced local companies" in Bulgaria, Romania and Albania. TNT will also operate full services to Poland and Czechoslovakia following a rise in shipments to Hungary, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Manx study chief named
The Isle of Man Lieutenant Governor has appointed Anthony Tristram Kenneth May, QC, to conduct an enquiry into the £42 million collapse of the Savings and Investment Bank in 1982. The enquiry was approved by the island's government last month, after the collapse of a criminal trial involving eight bank officials. A preliminary hearing will be held on July 25.

US orders give hope

A STRONG increase in durable goods orders reflected continued signs of life in the American economy, with May orders rising 3.9 per cent. Most economists had expected a 1.9 per cent increase. The advance comes after a 4.2 per cent fall in orders in April.

Transportation orders were the main reason for the rise, with good orders for aircraft and cars resulting in a 9.9 per cent increase in transportation goods. Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, this week rejected suggestions of a widespread credit squeeze in America, saying: "Enough credit appears to be available to fuel growth in the economy. All things considered, continued modest economic growth remains the most likely outcome."

AFI dealings suspended

DEALINGS in the shares and warrants of Amalgamated Financial Investments have been suspended at the company's request. AFI says it will announce a number of acquisitions next week, each of which will require shareholders' approval. AFI's shares were suspended at 6p.05p above its low for the year, and valuing the investment company at £2.7 million.

Murray loss at half time

MURRAY Enterprise, the investment trust which merged with Murray Technology last year, suffered a pre-tax loss of £64,000 in the six months to January 1990, against revenue of £268,000 last time. Dividends and interest fell from £534,000 to £219,000. The loss per share is 1.1p, against earnings of 0.61p previously. Net asset value fell from 98.7p to 83.6p.

Charges dismissed

A FEDERAL court judge has dismissed 11 of the 41 counts against former Wall Street arbitrageur John Mulheren on the grounds that there was no evidence Mr Mulheren defrauded his partners. Mr Mulheren still faces charges that he rigged share prices and helped Ivan Boesky, who was convicted of fraud in 1987, avoid tax and rules specifying minimum capital limits for stockbrokers.

Mr Boesky gave evidence against Mr Mulheren in his first public testimony since being released from jail this year. Mr Mulheren is the first to publicly challenge Mr Boesky's evidence in court. Others named by Mr Boesky have pleaded guilty.

Brussels ready to reject BA stake in new airline

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS by British Airways to take a 20 per cent stake in a new European airline based in Brussels seem likely to be dashed this week following objections by the European Commission.

The airline had hoped to develop a network of regional air routes throughout Europe by taking a £34 million stake in Sabena World Airways, a new airline formed jointly with the existing Belgian state airline and KLM, the Dutch carrier.

Once the proposed deal became public, however, the European Commission immediately launched an investigation running parallel to a similar enquiry ordered by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in Britain.

Lord King of Warrnaby, the British Airways chairman, criticised the government for forcing an MMC enquiry and made it plain that if the European Commission put conditions on the deal he



Lord King: criticism

would back out. Senior EC officials yesterday said they were preparing to object because they believe the deal is anti-competitive, and they would send a formal notice to each of the three airlines concerned on Wednesday.

Brussels hopes the airlines will now come up with amendments to the original proposal which would provide for greater competition and enable rivals, such as British Midland, to compete more effectively. Similar objections

are possible from the MMC, whose report is to be sent to Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary, next week.

Both the MMC and the commission were faced with a barrage of objections to the proposed deal, which BA saw as a major boost to air services throughout Europe by linking dozens of regional centres through the Brussels "hub".

Some airlines even claimed the proposed link was illegal and argued strongly that Sabena World Airways flights should not be allowed into Heathrow, while others claimed it would stifle competition from smaller independent rivals — all of which was denied by BA.

If the deal is outlawed or modified, as predicted, it is certain to sour relations even more between Lord King and regulators in Britain and the commission, and could pave the way for an American airline to achieve a much-needed foothold on the Continent in readiness for the single market in 1992.

Cassidy plunges into red

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CASSIDY Brothers, the toy and sports equipment maker based in Blackpool, plunged into a £312,000 loss in its first full year as a public company, against a profit of £582,000.

Sales in the year to April fell from £4.43 million to £4.11 million and the loss per share was 5.98p after earnings of 6.75p. The final dividend has been cut from 2.7p to 0.75p.

Tom Cassidy, the chairman, said a drop in sales in the first five months of the year reflected the reluctance of customers to take goods into stock until October and November because of high interest rates.

The group has invested in machinery and new products have been introduced. Sales in the first five months of this calendar year are 54 per cent higher than last year. Orders are 44 per cent up on last year. Mr Cassidy said: "Market trends give indications of a return to profitability in the current financial year."

The shares fell 3p to 38p.

Gillibrand urges shareholders to attend meeting

By COLIN CAMPBELL

CHLORIDE is likely to face criticism from shareholders at the July 23 annual meeting after yesterday's decision to pass the final dividend for the year ended March. The latest dividend on the preference capital has also been passed.

Because of the year's result, Chloride could be obliged to include the nomination of Dr Maurice Gillibrand to the board on the agenda. The process of his nomination is being prepared by a fellow shareholder and will be delivered to Chloride's offices soon.

Chloride blames a gross £5.6 million provision against its ill-fated 1988 purchase of a controlling stake in Altus Corporation of America and other accounting items, which leaves it with insufficient reserves within the parent company. This makes the group unable to declare a final dividend.

At the interim stage, Chloride paid 0.55p a share. Year-end net earnings were 0.8p against 0.9p a share previously. The year's accounts will detail an £11.7 million pension fund item.

Dr Gillibrand, a former research

director at the battery group, said he was willing to be nominated to the board because of Chloride's state of affairs. He called on other shareholders to attend the meeting and ask questions.

He wants to know whether proper diligence was exercised by Chloride in making its investment in Altus, whose fortunes have soured because of American defence cuts.

Chloride reported a pre-tax profit of £12.8 million against £12.2 million and a turnover on continuing operations of £237.7 million (£208.1 million) for its 1990 financial year.

However, it has had to provide £5.6 million gross within a net £1.1 million extraordinary charge against Altus, which it is now trying to sell "in pieces rather than as a whole".

Chloride says it is now "carefully assessing the prospects — both short term and long term — for the group's batteries and electronic businesses," and that "a further review of management structure and overheads is also being undertaken".

Ray Horrocks, the chairman, said: "A statement will be made as soon as specific conclusions have been reached

on the optimum strategy for the group." He admitted that "with hindsight, we should not have done it (bought Altus)".

Chloride added that Mercurius SA of Sweden now holds "more than 16 per cent" of the equity, but invitations to Mercurius to explain its intentions "have not been taken up".

Dr Gillibrand said Chloride's failure to produce a final dividend "is just a further consequence of the disastrous purchase of Altus. I hope at the annual meeting the board will be closely questioned by shareholders to make certain the proper diligence was exercised in making this purchase."

Dr Gillibrand said he was prepared to allow himself to be nominated a director because he believed this to be the wish of most individual shareholders. His previous attempt last July to join Chloride's board received six million votes, but was outweighed by proxies for 68 million.

Now he may receive backing from institutions, which, after the results, have fresh cause to worry about Chloride.

Mr Horrocks said: "If anybody has a better idea (about Chloride affairs) I am prepared to listen."

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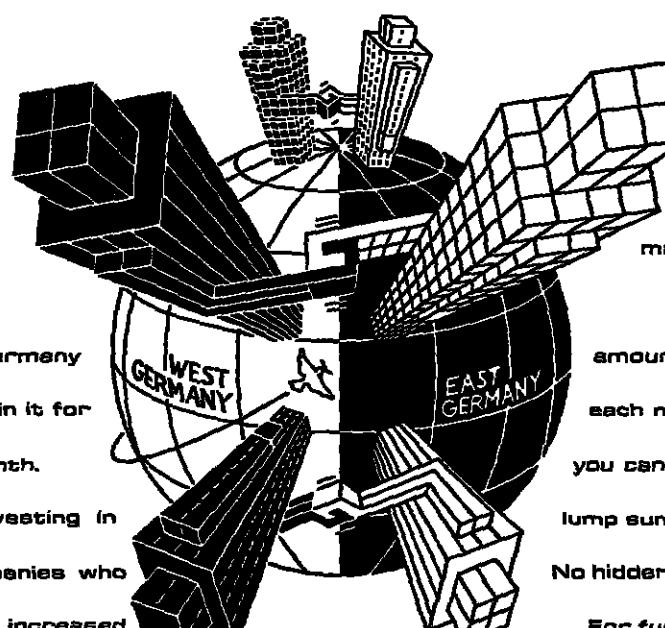
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STOCK MARKET

Strong pound helps shares close account on firm note

A STRONG pound and a firm start to trading on Wall Street enabled the London equity market to end the two-week trading account on a firm note.

However, there was little evidence to suggest that the big City institutions were having a change of heart and were prepared to chase share prices sharply higher as their second quarter started to draw to a close. Turnover was low, and only 407 million shares had been traded by 4pm.

The latest trade figures provided few surprises, and the deficit of £1.3 billion was in line with most forecasts. The FT-SE 100 index recovered after a hesitant start, but was below its best levels in late trading, up 7.8 points at 2,378.1. The FT index of 30 shares rose 5.9 to 1,914.2.

Government securities drew strength from the pound's continued buoyancy and the trade figures to score gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ at the longer end.

Heavy turnover in Hanson
shares was reported
overnight, with more than
20 million shares traded in
American depository
receipts. The price continued
towards its peak of 249p
with a rise of 7½p to 243p amid
claims that the group is
looking for a suitable bid
target.

Wellcome rallied 25p to 225p, with investors reassured by reports that reduced levels of dosage in Retrovir, its anti-Aids drug, were unlikely to hit profits.

Parkfield continued to reel from this week's profits warning. It fell 36p to 153p. Barclays de Zoete Wedd became the latest firm to red-

RECENT

**ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL:
hitting new height ahead of figures**

The chart displays two data series over a 12-month period from June to June. The Y-axis represents price/index values, ranging from 500 to 750. The X-axis shows the months: Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun.

- Share price (Line):** Represents the share price of Rothmans International. It starts at approximately 550 in June, rises to a peak of about 700 in October, dips to around 600 in December, and then trends upwards to reach a new high of approximately 750 by June.
- FTA All share price index (Rebased) (Area):** Represents the FTA All share price index, rebased to 1985 prices. It starts at 500 in June, peaks at about 580 in September, and then fluctuates between 450 and 550 for the remainder of the period.

Source: Datastream

Unigate closed all-square at 316p.

Rothmans International remained confident ahead of next week's full-year figures expected to show pre-tax profits up from £327 million to £390 million. The share closed 24p stronger at a high of 720p.

However, this had little impact on prices, with Barclays unchanged at 403p, Midland 2p lighter at 296p, and

NatWest 4p better at 336½p, after raising its stake in Banco Natwest from 83.7 per cent to 99.4 per cent. Lloyds also rose 1p to 289½p, despite reports that a court in Pisa had frozen all the group's assets in Italy. Kleinwort reckons that construction is likely to recover strongly once interest rates start to fall, but believes that corporate results over the next few months are likely to make grim reading.

Confirmation of the proposed merger between Philip Morris, the American food

and tobacco group, and Jacobs Suchard, of Switzerland, in a number of first-time buyers boosted housebuilders, with Barratt Developments 2p better at 177p, Beazer 7p up at 166p and Persimmon 7p

United Biscuits lost 7p to 367p and Ranks Hovis McDougall slipped 2p to 354p, while higher at 171p. In the stores sector, Storehouse lost an early lead to

close unchanged at 129p. Michael Julien, the chief executive, spoke to analysts on Thursday, but does not appear to have said much to excite them.

Next continued to lose ground, easing 1p to a low of 56p. The market is becoming increasingly gloomy about prospects for the fashion industry.

Great Universal Stores 9p to
£10.62, Kingfisher 8p to 365p
Marks and Spencer 2p to
240p, and Burton Group 3p to
158p. Boots rose 3p to 299p
and WH Smith 'A' 3p to 358p.

Morgan Stanley, the American securities house, told clients this week that the Boots and WH Smith joint DIY venture tidied up many loose ends, enabling them to concentrate on their core activities. It rates Boots and WH Smith as buys.

J Sainsbury responded positively to a bullish circular from Hoare Govett. The broker has been comparing group sales with the corresponding

Porter Chadburn rose 1p to 78p after a buy recommendation from UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker. The shares have underperformed by 30 per cent owing to a fall in

period last year and reports further signs of improvement.

MB Group beat a hasty retreat, losing 12p at 210p after Cazenove, its broker, cut a 25c cushion from its forecast.

£10 million from its forecast of pre-tax profits of £135 million for the current year.

TAXABLE profits at James Latham, the family-controlled timber merchants group, fell from £2.99 million to £2.43 million for the year to end-March. Earnings per share fell from 38.79p to 29.13p. A final dividend of 7p takes the total

Calls Puts
 Series Aug Nov Feb Aug Nov

[illegible]

MAJOR INDICES

[illegible]

FOREIGN EX

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Q. 01 0230 1988

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Official prices/volume previous day		Rudolf Wolt			
(Pounds)	Cash	3 months	Vol	Wolt	
COCOA	AMT Futures	Copper Grade A	1475.0-1478.0	1454.5-1455.5	490025
Jul 734-738	May 845-844				
Aug 735-737	Jul 828-826				
Nov 736-738	Oct 829-828				
Dec 737-739	Nov 830-829				
Jan 738-740	Dec 831-830				
Feb 739-741	Jan 832-831				
Mar 740-742	Feb 833-832				
Apr 741-743	Mar 834-833				
May 742-744	Apr 835-834				
Jun 743-745	May 836-835				
Jul 744-746	Jun 837-836				
Aug 745-747	Jul 838-837				
Nov 746-748	Oct 839-838				
Dec 747-749	Nov 840-839				
Jan 748-750	Dec 841-840				
Feb 749-751	Jan 842-841				
Mar 750-752	Feb 843-842				
Apr 751-753	Mar 844-843				
May 752-754	Apr 845-844				
Jun 753-755	May 846-845				
Jul 754-756	Jun 847-846				
Aug 755-757	Jul 848-847				
Nov 756-758	Oct 849-848				
Dec 757-759	Nov 850-849				
Jan 758-760	Dec 851-850				
Feb 759-761	Jan 852-851				
Mar 760-762	Feb 853-852				
Apr 761-763	Mar 854-853				
May 762-764	Apr 855-854				
Jun 763-765	May 856-855				
Jul 764-766	Jun 857-856				
Aug 765-767	Jul 858-857				
Nov 766-768	Oct 859-858				
Dec 767-769	Nov 860-859				
Jan 768-770	Dec 861-860				
Feb 769-771	Jan 862-861				
Mar 770-772	Feb 863-862				
Apr 771-773	Mar 864-863				
May 772-774	Apr 865-864				
Jun 773-775	May 866-865				
Jul 774-776	Jun 867-866				
Aug 775-777	Jul 868-867				
Nov 776-778	Oct 869-868				
Dec 777-779	Nov 870-869				
Jan 778-780	Dec 871-870				
Feb 779-781	Jan 872-871				
Mar 780-782	Feb 873-872				
Apr 781-783	Mar 874-873				
May 782-784	Apr 875-874				
Jun 783-785	May 876-875				
Jul 784-786	Jun 877-876				
Aug 785-787	Jul 878-877				
Nov 786-788	Oct 879-878				
Dec 787-789	Nov 880-879				
Jan 788-790	Dec 881-880				
Feb 789-791	Jan 882-881				
Mar 790-792	Feb 883-882				
Apr 791-793	Mar 884-883				
May 792-794	Apr 885-884				
Jun 793-795	May 886-885				
Jul 794-796	Jun 887-886				
Aug 795-797	Jul 888-887				
Nov 796-798	Oct 889-888				
Dec 797-799	Nov 890-889				
Jan 798-800	Dec 891-890				
Feb 799-801	Jan 892-891				
Mar 800-802	Feb 893-892				
Apr 801-803	Mar 894-893				</

[illegible]

Spread is percentage difference between bid and offer prices. Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer prices without income re-invested and ranking within sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. — Unit trust founded within last year. † PEP scheme available.

Fund	Dividend yield (%)	Net price	1 month total return	1 year total return	Fund	Dividend yield (%)	Net price	1 month total return	1 year total return
Henderson European	6.17	493.63	90.0	23 117.0	MAN Euro Australian	5.46	117.4	100.8	11 78.8
Henderson European Inc	6.20	69.32	85.0	23 113.3	M&B Euro Australian	5.11	465.09	101.1	11 78.9
Henderson European Sto Cos	6.14	142.9	98.1	23 113.3	New Cent Asset Smlr Cos	7.88	24.8	100.0	11 78.8
HSI Samuel European	5.50	197.5	57.4	61 113.3	Schwab European	6.18	175.5	103.6	6 92.2
Horizon European	6.50	162.0	87.3	102.2	Thornett European	5.95	123.6	102.6	6 92.2
James Fidelity Euro Sto	6.50	162.0	87.3	102.2	Thornett European	6.44	3.91	102.1	10 94.7
James Fidelity Euro Sto Inc	5.45	136.2	98.1	61 113.3	Thornett European Value	5.89	43.2	105.3	12 103.3
K&S European	5.80	136.5	97.1	61 113.3	Windsor European	5.50	58.40	105.1	2 78.8
K&S European Spec	5.81	105.8	98.2	61 113.3					
L&S European	5.99	136.6	100.5	6 116.8					
Lazard European	6.00	70.86	97.7	79 120.1					
Lazard European Sto	6.10	84.1	97.1	79 120.1					
Lazard European Sto Cos	6.01	104.9	97.6	79 120.1					

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Motorists offered escape route for tax on company mileage allowance

MOTORISTS who use their own cars for work may be able to escape the extra tax bills announced by the Inland Revenue this week. From next April the mileage allowance will be taxed at about 300,000 employees who drive more than 4,000 miles a year for their companies.

The changes will be implemented through the fixed profit car scheme, which is the administrative arrangement most employers use to account for mileage allowances paid to staff using their cars for work. It has been revised because the Inland Revenue believes that people who use their cars for business can make a profit on the mileage allowances paid.

Under the new rules employees will be able to receive between 24.5p and 43p a mile for the first 4,000 miles a year without paying any tax. Additional mileage will be taxed if employers pay more than 9.5p for cars up to 1,000 cc. The maximum tax-free allowance will be 16.5p on cars of 2,000 cc and more.

This would mean the owner of a powerful car receiving the maximum 43p would pay 16.5p tax for every mile over 4,000 miles as a basic rate taxpayer. A 40 per cent taxpayer would pay 10.6p a mile.

National insurance contributions could also be deducted from mileage profits. Employers should continue to receive the mileage payments in full and then any tax due will be deducted from their weekly or monthly pay. And as they are deemed to be profits, the guidance of the social security department is that they should be subject to NI contributions.

But the Revenue confirmed yesterday that drivers may be able to escape paying the additional tax if they keep detailed records of their motoring costs. Even where employers use the fixed profit scheme they can opt to have their affairs dealt with separately.

"Individual motorists are not bound by these figures. They can apply to be treated

separately and can then apply all the costs to their business motoring."

Someone who uses their car very little for private motoring who has high insurance, suffers substantial depreciation and heavy repair costs might be able to persuade the Inland Revenue that they had made no profit on their business motoring at all. This is likely to be easier for people living in the Southeast and large cities, who pay the highest insurance and repair bills.

The scheme is backdated to April 6, but under transitional arrangements drivers will not have to pay additional tax this year unless their mileage allowances are raised out of line with motoring costs. In subsequent years the additional chargeable amount will be limited to £1,000 in each year.

All employees who use their cars for business will be able to claim relief for depreciation. At present employees can only claim for depreciation under the capital allowances rules if all employees do the same job have to provide a car for it.

About 2 million employees receive mileage allowances but the government estimates only 15 per cent use their cars for more than 4,000 miles a year. High business mileage drivers have been given excessive relief for standing costs such as insurance and car tax and can receive more than the total costs incurred, said the Revenue.

Currently motorists can receive 24.5p a mile tax-free for cars up to 1,000 cc for any number of miles, 30p up to 1,500 cc and 34p above 1,500 cc. Owners of cars 2,000 cc and more can be paid 43p under the new rules. Over 4,000 miles the difference between the rate paid and the tax-free rate will be liable to tax. The tax-free rates are 9.5p, 11.5p, 13.5p and 16.5p.

If the same rate of mileage allowance is used for all cars the average of the two middle bands will be used. This will allow tax-free motoring at 32p a mile for the first 4,000 miles and 12.5p thereafter.

[illegible]

European	278.1	292.7	+15.6
otic	200.5	211.0	-0.8
Recovery	187.1	196.9	-2.6
Plus Accum	205.7	216.5	-0.6
th American	138.6	146.1	-2.2
neet	204.0	214.7	+0.3

Privatisation 'failed to create share owners democracy'

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE number of people holding shares dramatically increased as a result of privatisation and much-publicised flotations such as TSB and Abbey National, but they failed to create a share-owning democracy, according to a report published yesterday.

The study by the Association of Investment Trust Companies and the International Stock Exchange reveals that the privatisations are viewed by investors as different to buying and selling shares in other companies.

"The privatisations are now recognised as an opportunity to make a quick profit with very little risk, but are viewed as totally anomalous. They are thought to bear no relation-

ship to the stockmarket and its workings," says the report.

One participant sums the feeling up: "With privatisation shares the government under-valued the stock so it's a guaranteed earner. People got the idea that you could put all your money into British Telecom and you'd make a killing. It's not living in the real world."

The 1987 crash was perceived by some in a moralistic light as a way of punishing those who had been over-ambitious in the stockmarket. It was also seen as a warning not to dabble in new areas without having the background knowledge and expertise.

The report also reveals there is little awareness of or confidence in the power or effectiveness of the regulatory authorities. Nor are investors sure about stockbrokers and other investment salesmen. Most non-shareholders would approach their bank manager if they had money to invest.

They feel the onus will be on them to make the decisions and few expect that a stockbroker could do this for them. Also, they are not seen to be geared to the small private client who does not have a lot of money to invest. Others fear the commission charged would cancel out any profits.

Adding to the current gloom was the collapse of Barlow Clowes, taking with it £150 million of investors' money. All of which was eventually restored by the government.

"Many can envisage themselves as victims of a situation of this kind," says the report.

Shares are regarded as high risk with people regarding the best known names as the safest such as Sock Shop and Colonnade, both of which have recently proved disastrous investments.

There is not much comfort for the investment trust industry in the report it initiated. Most of the participants had not heard of them. Many of those who had were negative: "I get the impression that it's like one of those companies that went bust in Gibraltar," said one.

Non-shareholders and shareholders are categorised by the report. Those without shares are divided into moralists, who are aggressive and very disapproving; safety seekers who are cautious, passive and unadventurous; the curious, who might in different circumstances become shareholders; and the uncertain, who are interested but beset by doubts.

Shareholders are divided into gamblers who are motivated by the idea of "making a killing", those who have inherited shares or retained privatisation issues, and investors who spend a great deal of time thinking about their financial affairs.

Trusts resist moves to clarify names

By MARGARET DIBBEN

WHILE the investment trust industry is trying to attract small investors away from unit trusts and building societies, there is a strong resistance among the companies to adopt up-to-date marketing techniques.

At a very basic level, the names of investment trust companies are largely unhelpful, if not misleading.

The subject was raised at the most recent member's meeting of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC). Lesley Renvoize, the AITC's head of publicity, said: "I can understand that investors might feel misled by some of the names."

Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust, for example, has nothing to do with Scotland or with mortgages.

Miss Renvoize added: "Updating the name is an example of something which doesn't cost any money but helps to make investment trusts more accessible. If you have a complicated name, people

think it's a complicated product."

Fleming Universal is a general trust which, at the moment, specialises in Europe. The board has decided against changing the name to reflect this new strategy.

Adam Fleming, a director of Fleming Investment Trust Management, said: "As it was set up, Fleming Universal could invest anywhere at any time at the discretion of the managers. Towards the end of 1988 the board decided against changing the name."

"We didn't want in two years' time to find that Europe was fully valued and that Mexico or Chile now has the attractions."

But a trust with one of the more unhelpful names, the British Kidney Patient Association Investment Trust, has changed its title to Hotspur.

And possibly the most accurately named investment trust is Updown Investment Co, after the house belonging to its chairman.



All change: Canadian Julie Madde and daughter Kelly exchanging dollars at Bank of Scotland's new dispenser

Foreign touch at teller machines

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

MACHINES that change currency from 11 European countries plus Australian, American and Canadian dollars are being introduced to the high street by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The touch-screen machines can recognise 34 different bank notes and change them into sterling.

The first one came into service at the bank's head office in Edinburgh at the beginning of the month and in July the next will come on line in Knightsbridge, London. Others will go on trial over the next 12 months.

The automatic currency exchange machines are intended for people returning from holiday, foreign tourists and businessmen.

The machines give instructions in English, German, French or Spanish. They are the first in Britain to use touch-screen options, although they are widely used on the Continent.

Customers are guided by instructions on the screen. The foreign currency is fed into one slot and the sterling is dispatched through another. A printed ticket acts as the customer's receipt and states the exchange rate used.

Foreign currency worth up to £100 can be exchanged through the machines during banking hours. The European currencies accepted are the Belgian franc, Danish kroner, Dutch guilder, French franc, German mark, Italian lira, Norwegian kroner, Portuguese escudo, Spanish peseta, Swedish krona and Swiss franc.

David Robinson, executive director of the Royal Bank of Scotland said: "Over the next 12 months we will learn a lot about users' requirements and modify the facility accordingly. By the standards of only a couple of years ago it is staggering to realise that one of our customers who takes out his holiday money in Spain using cashline can change back any spare banknotes using this new machine."

interest. Free-banking was the second most important factor, followed by the "total package" offered.

Many banks and building societies throw in record vouchers, stationery kits and other free gifts to encourage school leavers to open an account. But the survey found that only 2 per cent of applicants thought these were the most important consideration.

Abbey National throws in an electronic personal organiser for young account openers. Lesley Hine, senior product manager for the bank's current account, said such incentives were still regarded as important, but took second place to features such as interest on credit balances, a cashpoint card and an absence of transaction charges.

The account has a choice of £50 or £100 cheque guarantee cards, pays interest of 6.25 per cent after tax, and has an overdraft facility. It is open to customers aged between 16 and 24, who have their salary, grant or allowance paid in and make a £40 deposit.

Young customers look for best rates

By JON ASHWORTH

YOUNG bank and building society customers are more interested in charges and interest than free gifts, according to a survey by Abbey National.

Asked what they valued most in a new current account, most of the 150 respondents opted for a good rate of

interest. Free-banking was the second most important factor, followed by the "total package" offered.

Many banks and building societies throw in record vouchers, stationery kits and other free gifts to encourage school leavers to open an account. But the survey found that only 2 per cent of applicants thought these were

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BRIEFINGS

■ Chase Manhattan has increased the range of benefits open to its visa cardholders by teaming up with Findlaters, the wine merchants. Special offers and wine tasting cases are part of the deal which is available free to cardholders. The wine club has a 10 per cent discount on orders of £70 or more made before the end of August.

■ Shaw & Co, the City stockbroker, has launched a personal equity plan (Pep) which allows investors to switch out of shares into cash or less risky investments during times of stockmarket uncertainty. Up to 50 per cent of the Shaw managed portfolio may be invested in cash or low-risk preference shares, while 30 per cent may be invested in smaller companies. The minimum investment is £3,000.

■ Investors puzzled by the number of personal equity plans available may consider a new guide from Berry Asset Management. The free guide gives an introduction to Peps and considers the new rules and investment limits. It also lists typical dealing and management charges. Tel: 071-376 3476.

■ MJM Britannia has added a Pep with an international flavour to its range. Up to 50 per cent of TaxHaven International will invest in British companies with substantial overseas earnings. The remainder will be invested in English and International Trust, an investment trust with holdings abroad. The minimum investment is £2,000, the initial charge is 5 per cent and the annual charge is 1.25 per cent.

■ An investment account paying 11.5 per cent interest on £10,000 or more and with a monthly income facility has been launched by the Dudley Building Society. The rate on the Castle income account rises to 12.5 per cent on sums over £50,000. There is instant access to amounts over the £10,000 minimum, while smaller amounts may be withdrawn at once with the loss of 90 days interest.

■ Bupa is raising the level of benefits for members by 7 per cent from July 1. It will also pay bills directly for members, ending the need for two sets of payments. The private health organisation is currently in the middle of refining the payment structure for different surgical and medical procedures.

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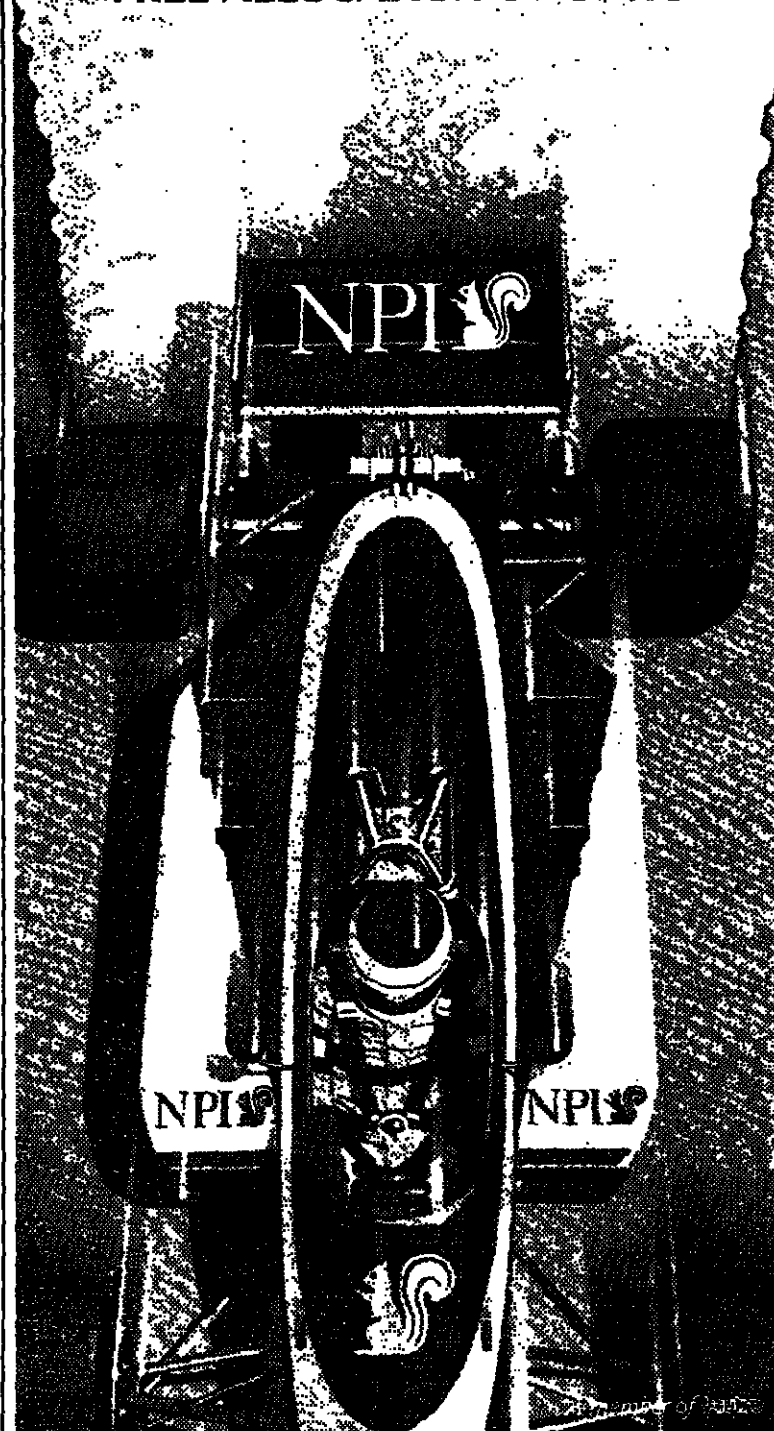
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*Source: Micalop, an independent company, 1/1/82 to 1/5/90, offer-to-bid, £1,000 lump sum investment.

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NPI
THE WINNING FORMULA

Fixed rates offered at 13.5%

By JON ASHWORTH

SEVERAL fixed rate loans were launched this week with rates as low as 13.5 per cent, which both Royal Bank of Scotland and Newcastle Building Society are offering.

Bradford & Bingley has a loan fixed at 13.7 per cent for two years, while Prudential has loans fixed at 13.99 per cent and 13.95 per cent until May 1992 and the Britannia Building Society is offering a mortgage at 14.2 per cent which reduces by 0.15 per cent every six months until October 1993.

The new loans could shave up to £80 a month off the cost of a £50,000 mortgage. The Royal Bank of Scotland has fixed its rate at 13.5 per cent until June 1993 - 2.2 per cent below the standard mortgage rate of 15.7 per cent.

One snag is that borrowers

It's attached
to something.



must link their mortgage to an endowment or pension policy. This increases monthly costs, since premiums are added to the loan interest. Newcastle Building Society offers a similar deal, which must be linked to a home plan mortgage protection or endowment policy as well as homecover

buildings and contents insurance. The rate of 13.5 per cent is fixed for two years, and funds are limited.

Unlike its rivals, the Bradford & Bingley loan can be taken on a repayment basis. The rate, also fixed for two years, is available on loans of £20,000 or more on up to 90 per cent of the valuation.

Borrowers can link the loan to an endowment, pension or personal equity plan. There is an arrangement fee of £100. A stabiliser mortgage with interest rates as low as 10 per cent has been launched by Crown Financial Management. It offers a choice of three interest rates - 10 per cent, 11 per cent or 12 per cent - and allows borrowers to switch between them. Part of the interest is deferred in the hope it will be paid off if interest rates fall.

Unit trust managers chase the tiger in booming SE Asia

By RUPERT BRUCE

A FLOOD of new Southeast Asian unit trusts is on the market, after an excellent performance by trusts investing in the fast-growing area last year.

But investors should beware: the region's stockmarkets are unlikely to offer such miraculous returns again.

Unit trust management companies have launched a total of five new Southeast Asian (or tiger) unit trusts in the last six months. They hope that investors will buy them encouraged by last year's star performance.

Hugh Young manages 1989's top performing unit trust, the Abtrust Far East Emerging Economies, which doubled in value last year.

He said: "You won't see the share price growth of the last two years. Investors have realised that there is a huge potential in this area and the consequent stockmarket re-rating has happened."

The Asian Development Bank expects Asian economies to grow at 6 per cent for each of the next three years, faster than anywhere else in the world.

But this will not fuel stockmarket performances comparable to 1989's, when Thailand rose by 127 per cent, Taiwan by 88 per cent and Malaysia by 57 per cent.

Japan has been the region's economic motor since 1985 when a rise in the Yen prompted it to set up factories among its poorer neighbours. Wages were cheaper as were property prices.

Initially, the main beneficiaries were Taiwan and South Korea. But as they have prospered so wages have risen, and now Japanese investment is swinging south. The average factory wage in South Korea is now \$700 a month, compared with \$115 in Thailand and \$60



Top performer: Hugh Young, manager of Abtrust

in Indonesia. Fund managers are following hot on the heels of the Japanese manufacturing companies. They are investing little money in the "frothy", expensive markets of Taiwan and South Korea.

Instead fund managers are going to Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, as well as the old colonial port economies of Hong Kong and Singapore.

The phenomenal rise in the region's stockmarkets has happened as investors - both foreign and domestic - have realised the potential for economic growth. Two or three years ago shares cost about 10 times the underlying com-

panies earnings, whereas now they can cost up to 40 times.

Mr Young thinks some tiger markets still offer outstanding returns, even if they are not of last year's magnitude.

He expects share prices in Thailand, where 40 per cent of his £73 million fund is invested, to climb by 25 per cent in the next year.

Unit trusts investing in Southeast Asia's emerging economies are not for widows and orphans. Those investors who do want to buy them should pick a fund with a good track record. Untested fund managers may make mistakes. Performance table, page 44

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25% 40%	Min/max investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Typical	10.81	10.81	10.81	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-628 1567
Barclays	11.44	11.44	11.44	25,000-50,000	6 mth 01-626 1567
Lloyds	10.38	10.38	10.38	2,500-no max	1 mth Local Branch
Midland	10.92	10.92	10.92	2,500-no max	6 mth 01-260 2905
NetWest	10.42	10.42	10.42	10,000-no max	1 mth 01-260 2905
TSB (England & Wales)	10.50	10.50	10.50	10,000-24,000	6 mth 01-728 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland MMC	10.45	10.97	8.78	2,500	none 031-442 7777
Barclays Prime A/c	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,500	none 0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	6.00	6.50	4.98	No limit	none 01 626 0543
Glaxo	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000	none 051 966 2076
Lloyds HCA	7.00	7.20	5.78	2,000	none 01-260 2905
Midland HCA	9.50	9.54	7.87	2,000	none 01-260 2905
NetWest	9.00	9.31	7.45	500	none 01-374 3374
Special Reserve	9.75	10.11	8.08	2,500	none 031-656 8555
Royal Bank of Scotland A/c	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000	none 01-600 6000

BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none
Best buy - largest assets:					
Britannia	9.50	9.50	7.92	250 min	none
National & Prov	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min	none
Britannia	11.30	11.30	9.03	5,000 min	60 day
Abbey National	11.55	11.55	9.24	10,000 min	60 day
Birmingham Mid.	12.25	12.25	9.80	2,500 min	1 year

Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 mth	Rates rise
Card Cash	8.90	8.90	5.52	500 min	with larger
Anglia First	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 min	balances

NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-549-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	9.56	5,000 min	1 mth 041-549-4555
Income Bond	13.50	13.50	10.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 0253 66151
Deposit Bond	13.50	13.50	10.10	3 mth	041-549-4555
25th Issue Cert	9.50	9.50	7.50	25-1,000	8 day 041-549-4555
Yearly Plan	9.50	9.50	7.50	25-1,000	14 day 091-3864900
General	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-no max	5 yrs 041-549-4555
Capital Bond	12.00	12.00	9.02	100-no max	5 yrs 041-549-4555

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
American Life	12.20	12.20	10.37	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from Chase de
Centenary Life	11.25	11.25	9.56	1,000 min	2 yrs Were call
Centenary Life	10.75	10.75	9.13	1,000 min	3 yrs 041 404 5766
Centenary Life	10.50	10.50	8.92	1,000 min	4 yrs 041 404 5766
Hill Samuel	10.50	10.50	8.92	5,000 min	5 yrs 041 404 5766

RPI (May 89-90)	+9.7%	Holiday rates	E buys
Bank Base Rate	15.0%	Spanish Pesetas:	174.00
Personal Loan	24.9%	French Francs:	8.53
Credit Card	19.31%	Greek Drachmas:	275.00
		Italian Lira:	2063.00

CGT ALLOWANCE, May 1990					
The indexed rate for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in May 1982					
Ri mth	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Jan	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Feb	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Mar	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Apr	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
May	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Jun	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Jul	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Aug	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Sep	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Oct	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Nov	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262
Dec	0.528	0.453	0.384	0.311	0.262

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MANAGEMENT

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four years falls to 10.75 per cent, 10.25 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

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WEEKEND MONEY

Trouble and strife with the card

Shared plastic
can leave
partners in deep
water, warns
Lindsay Cook

PEOPLE who share their credit and charge cards with partners can find it impossible to stop them spending should the relationship end.

A dentist who sent an instruction by recorded delivery to three companies to cancel his wife's cards, has been ordered by the High Court to pay debts that he ran up afterwards.

The wife incurred bills of £8,000 on an American Express card and £5,000 on a Barclays gold Visa card and Harrods card after he left her in 1986.

Last month the High Court in Liverpool ordered that he must pay Amex's bill. A statutory demand has been issued and the company could start proceedings to bankrupt him if he does not pay the bill. He has already paid Harrods and Barclays backed down about two weeks before court proceedings were due to take place.

Now the dentist wants to warn the thousands of other cardholders who are encouraged to apply for a supplementary card for their spouse not to do so.

Barclaycard recently introduced an £8 a year charge for cardholders, but it waives the charge for additional cardholders - the 1.5 million husbands and wives whose spouses have agreed to joint cards.

American Express frequently mails members suggesting that a supplementary card should be issued as a gift for their husband or wife.

Both say that cardholders can "cancel" supplementary cards but agree that this does not necessarily stop the partner using the card. If they do not try to spend more in a shop than is allowed without telephone authorisation from the card company, a substantial bill can be run up.



GRAHAM PHILPOT

cancel the wife's card but that he would have to visit her, ask for the card, cut it in two and return it to the company.

He says he asked the local police for guidance on how he should go about such an operation, and was warned that a policeman would need to go along to make sure that he did not cause a breach of the peace.

The dentist said: "My case is over. I will have to pay as you cannot operate as a dentist if you are bankrupt. But I do not feel it should be allowed to happen."

"I sent the letter to American Express recorded delivery so they know that they received it before my wife started spending. It told them not to accept anything more on her card, but she was able to spend £8,000."

"Some of the purchases were large and would have required a telephone authorisation. It would have been easy for them to have told the sales assistant to snap the card in two."

On the specific case the American Express spokesman said that it had received the recorded delivery letter on November 14 after the last authorised large purchase worth £520 from Selfridges on November 13. All the purchases made after this date were below the authorisation limits of the retailers.

The dentist has a post office counterfoil to show the recorded delivery letter was sent on October 30 and a letter from the Post Office that it was delivered on October 31.

The spokesman added: "If at this late date he is contesting the dates we would look into the new circumstances."

Any bills incurred by the additional cardholder would be the responsibility of the main cardholder. This is spelled out in the terms and conditions of the cards, the companies agree.

A spokesman for American Express said: "We don't take a dogmatic view. Cardholders should telephone us as soon as they are aware there might be a problem."

"They should then back it up in writing. We have to be careful that we are dealing with the right person."

The spokesman added: "The supplementary cardholder will still have a piece of plastic with which he or she can spend money. If they do not exceed the floor limit they will be able to keep the card. If they go over the limit it will be taken away."

"At the end of the day the cardholder will be responsible for such charges on the card. But we are flexible and try at all times to help the cardmember."

The spokesman pointed out that some couples could defraud the company by the main cardholder cancelling a card knowing the partner had been on a spending spree.

"We also have to be careful that there is no collusion between a husband and wife," he said.

Supplementary cards cost £15 a year compared with £32.50 for a main card.

At Barclaycard a spokeswoman said: "The number of problems with second cards is very small. If a cardholder thinks there is going to be a problem they should telephone us as soon as possible so that we can put a block on the card."

"Then if a retailer calls for authorisation we will ask for the card to be retained. A reward would be paid for doing so."

In the terms and conditions the cardholder is liable for a transaction made on an additional card but they treated cases as sympathetically as they could, she added.

"In most cases we would pick up the card before a large bill had been run up."

At Save & Prosper, Ian Lindsey, the banking director, said: "Our approach would be to write to the second party and advise them that they cannot use their card any more."

call came through within seven days we would speak to the cardholder to ascertain the nature of the transaction."

They would sanction restaurant or hotel bills being paid but not "non-necessary" purchases, said Mr Lindsey.

"We do not have supplementary cardholders. If a husband and wife share a card they are joint account-holders and if there is a dispute we refuse all transactions immediately."

"Most cardholder agreements state that the card can be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the bank."

The dentist claims that Amex told him it could not

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Tax law brings out trusting husbands

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE introduction of independent taxation has demonstrated how trusting husbands are, according to the Leeds Permanent. Many are prepared to hand over £20,000 to their wives so that they can use their personal tax allowance of £3,005 to set against interest on savings.

Three-quarters of investors in the building society's Isle of Man subsidiary, which pays interest gross, are married women - while most enquiries come from married men.

Under tax law any money handed over to a wife to invest must be an absolute gift.

David Andrew, the Leeds' head of savings and investment, said: "The men are obviously convinced their marriages are going to last."

Leeds' Permanent Overseas has received £125 million since its launch. It pays 12.25 per cent on the minimum balance of £10, rising to 15.75 per cent over £100,000. British taxpayers must declare such income to the revenue.

Much more cynical was one married man who telephoned Save & Prosper to enquire about its offshore account. "How can I be sure it won't be toy boy money?" he asked.

Young to pay less for income protection

By JON ASHWORTH

CUSTOMERS of Barclays will soon be offered a new permanent health insurance plan which will provide regular income to policyholders who cannot work due to ill-health.

The family income protection plan, launched by Barclays Life, is unit-linked and includes a cash bonus for workers who are laid off.

The protection plan was first launched 18 months ago, but Barclays has improved some of the terms and extended the cover.

Paul Wheeler, life and pensions marketing manager, said the plan was aimed at employees aged from 25 to 45, and would prove more expensive for older clients.

The maximum age for new applicants is 55 for men and 50 for women. A professional male, age 30, insuring himself for £20,000 a year, would pay £15.70 a month, £21.52 at age 40, and £26.73 at age 50.

The minimum premium is £10 a month, and employees can insure themselves for up to 75 per cent of their earnings.

Premiums are fixed for the length of the policy, making the cover a better buy for younger employees. Payments begin once someone has been off work for at least two months.

Taking a different approach, Legal & General has launched a maternity package to help working mothers make up earnings lost while off work.

Under the scheme, they will receive an extra 25 per cent rise on top of their normal salary for six months after they return to work, regardless of how long they have worked for the company.

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(Source: Money Management)

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Fidelity INVESTMENTS

WEEKEND MONEY

Society mergers hit the members

Kathryn Deane explains why the small investor has lost out from building society consolidation

THE Building Societies Commission has sanctioned the merger of the Frome Selwood building society with the Stroud & Swindon, joined by Cheltenham & Gloucester has picked up the Peckham on the rebound and it is the small investor that will become the wallflower at the dance.

For the Frome Selwood and Peckham are the last two of the cohort of societies whose fate was to offer high interest rates on small sums of money with easy access.

As is usually the case on a takeover, existing Frome Selwood investors will continue to be able to operate their accounts as if nothing had happened. But no new investors will be able to benefit from the Frome's useful one- and two-week notice accounts, because Stroud & Swindon offers nothing like them.

Investors with £500 will still be able to earn the 10.75 per cent that Frome was offering on its seven day notice account but the Stroud will make them wait a month for access to their money. Worse

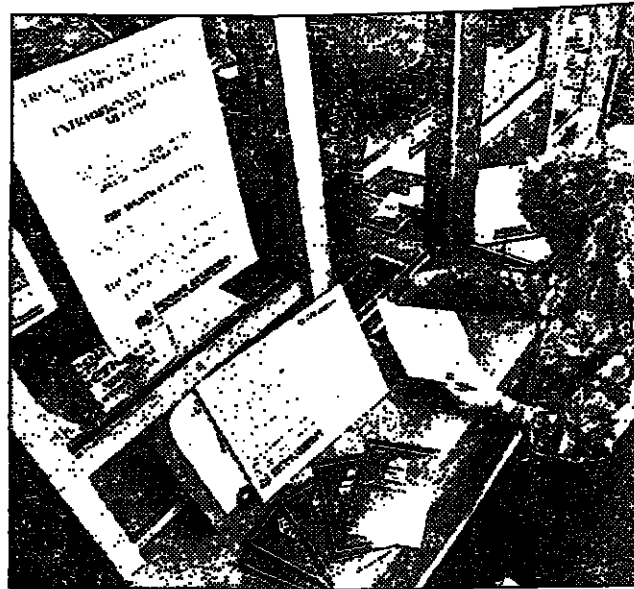
news awaits investors with the Peckham, who are not even being offered the opportunity to retain their existing accounts.

They will no longer be able to benefit from rates as high as 11.30 per cent on an instant access account for a mere £100, which is what the Peckham platinum portfolio has recently been offering.

Instead, they will become Cheltenham gold account holders, and their £100 will net them only 6.75 per cent. The bounty of 0.75 per cent with which Peckham investors were wooed into the merger will not go far to make up the difference.

This reduction in consumer choice is not new. Over the last four years, almost all building society mergers have involved not so much the joy of a wedding but the sorrow of a funeral.

The roll-call of high-paying societies reaped by profit-hungry larger outfits includes Aid To Thrift, Bedford, Bolton, Paddington and Wessex. All in their day paid the highest rates available to small



Counter bid: society rates have suffered in merger

savers wanting easy access. Bedford and Bolton were swallowed up by the acquisitive C&G, and their high-paying accounts were lost to new investors. Aid To Thrift merged with Cheltenham, whose three-month notice account is frequently a winner if you have £20,000 to invest. There's no joy there though for small savers.

Paddington was taken over by West of England, which then merged with the Regency to form the Regency & West of

cases are the exception rather than the rule, and there does not seem to have been a case in the last four years where savers have actually benefited from a merger.

It is not only small savers in small societies who have lost out. Bolton paid consistently high rates on sums of £10,000 or more. Not only did the C&G have nothing to match it when it took Bolton over, but no other society did either.

Even high street mergers can leave savers out of pocket. When Nationwide and Anglia merged, it was Anglia's accounts that were lost - and in most categories, it was the Anglia accounts that were the more useful or were the slightly better payers.

Motives for merger have subtly changed over the past few years. When Rodney Partington announced the demise of the Colchester building society in 1987 he said the merger was to provide his society's members "access to an increasing range of investment, homebuying, insurance, personal loan and other services." Now the talk is of pure survival.

Until recently, members have rarely had a choice in the matter of who the suitor would be. The battle for Frome Selwood by the Stroud & Swindon and C&G may have changed all that.

Commission gives Frome go-ahead

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE FROME Selwood building society heard yesterday that its merger with the Stroud & Swindon will go ahead.

Members will receive a 2 per cent bonus on their savings plus a 0.5 per cent discount on mortgage payments for six months. The building society commissioners held a confirmation hearing on Tuesday.

The commissioners do not have power to turn down a building society merger on grounds of merit. The main point of contention in the Frome case was that at least 49 of its investors and borrowers received Stroud proxy forms, making some votes invalid and possibly deterring others from voting.

How many people were sent the wrong forms and how the mistake happened was not resolved at the hearing.

Frome members who voted on Stroud proxy forms in the belief that this was better than not voting learned they were mistaken. A vote on the wrong form was invalid.

Indeed, Malcolm Waters, counsel for the Frome and Stroud societies, contended that there was no obligation, either in the Building Societies Act or the Frome's own rules, for the society to send out proxy forms at all, although "it was undeniably a matter of considerable regret" that some wrong ones were issued.

The onus is on members of societies in future mergers to check that they have the correct proxy form and to obtain one from a branch of the society if necessary.

Frome said the invalid investors' votes were 36 to 8 in

favour of the merger, with one spoilt. Four borrowers with the wrong forms produced two votes for with two spoilt.

The commission can withhold permission if material information was not made available to all members, if the vote did not represent members' views or if a requirement of the Building Societies Act or the societies' own rules were broken.

The Frome directors, stung by suggestions that they were feathering their own nests in favouring the Stroud link rather than a deal with the C&G, gave details of three offers made by the C&G refuting this.

Jim Marshall, the chief executive suspended in April for reasons not made public, expects the Frome to be in touch next week. He has been drawing full pay and enjoying fringe benefits, including a car.

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M&G Second	£3,024	£11,967	£35,198
Building Society	£2,977	£7,393	£14,044

All performance figures include income reinvested for 10 years and are based on actual values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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Manulife launches shares dripfeed

By JON ASHWORTH

BANK and building society savers have a new way of buying shares without putting all their money at risk.

A new investment plan, to be launched on Monday by Manulife, the insurance group, will give them the choice of drip-feeding money from a deposit account to as many as 10 unit trusts.

The plan, called asset builder, is designed to spread payments over two years, allowing investors to buy stocks and shares gradually.

The idea is not a new one. Gartmore offered Cheltenham & Gloucester customers the chance to invest the interest earned on a savings account in unit trusts, but this was withdrawn in 1988. Stuart Perilli, managing director of Manulife Management, said his company was well placed to succeed. It owns Western Trust and Savings, a regional bank based in Plymouth, Devon, and sells through independent brokers and a large salesforce.

"We are looking for gaps in the financial marketplace, and this is a way of pricing money out of building societies which is there by default," said Mr Perilli.

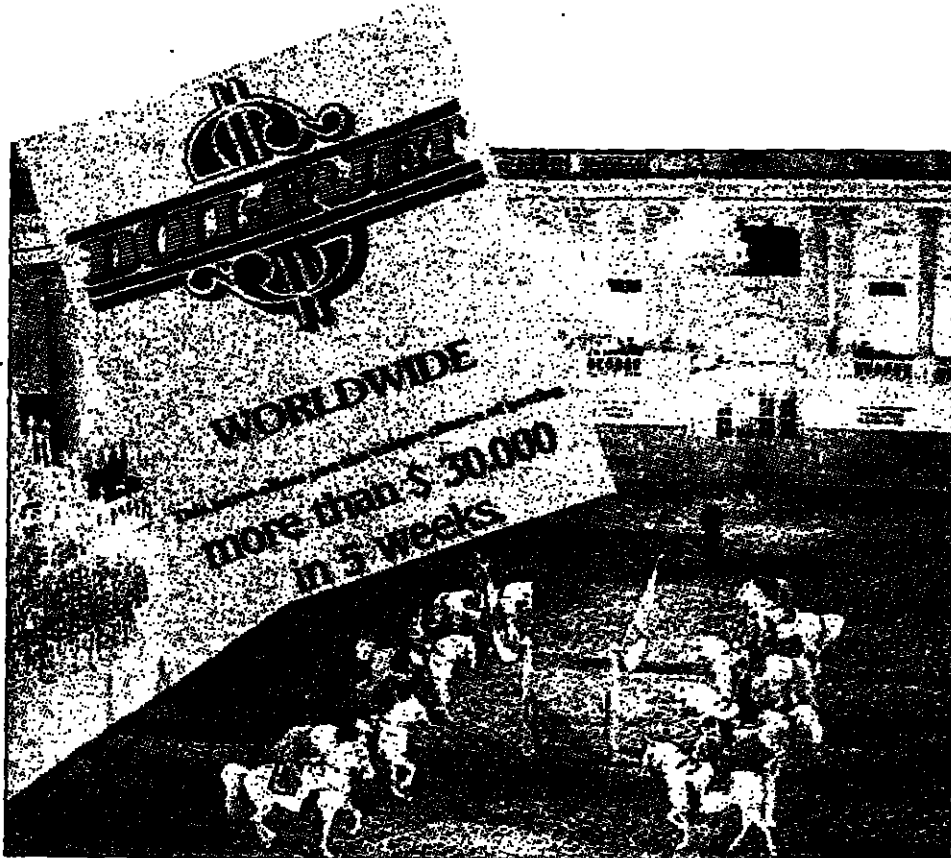
High interest rates made it seem even more attractive to leave money sitting where it was, but asset builder was a way of trickling it into shares without the risks of a one-off investment.

Mr Perilli added the plan would be most attractive when interest rates were high and the outlook for shares was uncertain. "It's a matter of timing. For investors who are a little uncertain, asset builder will fill the troughs and flatten the peaks."

Clients place from £5,000 to £250,000 in a deposit account with Western Trust, paying a 3 per cent initial charge, and earning 10.5 per cent after tax on their money. The rate is guaranteed to be no less than 6 per cent below the base rate at any one time.

Money is transferred by 24 equal payments to a unit trust regular savings plan, subject to an upfront charge of 2.25 per cent and an annual charge of 1.25 per cent.

Manulife has won awards for investment performance in the past, but there are signs that its grip may be slipping. Manulife Growth, a unit trust investing in UK shares, is ranked nineteenth of 75 funds over five years, according to Micropal.



Broken chain: money was to be sent to the mysterious Mr Gomes London address (left) and to a PO box in Vienna where the letter originated

Illegal links in the international chain letter that fails to deliver

By TONY HETHERINGTON

FAMILIES who have paid to take part in a money-making chain letter have issued a warning to potential entrants that the vast sums promised do not materialise.

Home Office officials have backed up their complaints and denounced the scheme as illegal.

The chain letters originate from Commerce Control Inc, a Panamanian company whose actual location and ownership is unknown. All correspondence comes from a post office box in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

From there, professionally produced literature is mailed to addresses around the world, inviting recipients to join the company's Dollarjet scheme. The same leaflets have so far appeared in English, French and Arabic.

To take part in Dollarjet costs \$90, just over £50. Participants pay \$30 for a list of five names and addresses of people who have already joined ahead of them. They must then send \$30 or the equivalent to the person whose name heads the list, plus a final \$30 to Commerce Control in Vienna. Thus,

whether entrants profit or not, the organisers make a fixed \$30 from every recruit for almost no outlay on their part.

All they provide to new recruits in return for their fee is four leaflets designed to attract still more participants. The leaflets include a fresh list of names and addresses, with the new participant's name entered in fifth place.

The new participant is supposed to sell these leaflets and the lists of names and addresses to four friends for \$30 each, recruiting them into Dollarjet. If this can be managed it will bring in \$120 and thus more than cover the initial outlay of \$90.

The four recruits then follow the same steps, sending money to the person at the top of the list and a fee to the Vienna box number. They in turn will be sent four leaflets each, and this time the name of the person who recruited them will appear fourth.

The process continues, with each person whose name reaches the top of the list being entitled, in theory, to expect 1,024 payments of \$30 to flood in. As Dollarjet's leaflets explain, "You receive \$30,720

We got a few dollars back, but then it just stopped. Altogether we just about covered what we put in

without financial engagement on your part." According to the organisers, the whole procedure should take between four and six weeks.

They claim: "The Dollarjet system is neither a lottery nor a game of chance for which you have to buy tickets, but is based on a logical arithmetical system which, consistently followed, leads to a large gain for the participants."

However, William Amankwah, an architect who lives in Essex, casts doubt on this. He and his wife Charlotte each joined, hoping to double the promised payout of more than \$30,000.

"We got £100 out of it," he said. "It cost us about £80 to

enter, but we got that back when we sold the forms to other people. That covered our initial outlay. But really, it is not worth the effort involved. We would not enter again. It takes some doing to convince people to buy the forms, and what we got back just wasn't worth it."

And Mrs Amankwah questioned the way in which names are selected by Commerce Control for the money-winning top spot on the leaflets. Some unscrupulous organisers of chain letters in the past have been known to insert their own names, or the names of friends, in high places on the lists.

She said: "What we do not understand is why the person who recruited us was not at the top of the list on which we appeared in second place. Instead, there was somebody we did not know."

Mrs Amankwah and her husband were recruited by Mr Senyo Tetteh, also an architect, who lives in Ilford, Essex.

He said: "We got a few dollars back, but then it just stopped. Altogether we just about covered what we put in."

Mr Tetteh was surprised to be told that on at least some of the leaflets in circulation, his

family's name appeared below that of the Amankwah family he had recruited.

"We are supposed to be above them," he said. "Then, after we receive our money, they go into top place and we drop off the list."

Instead, in top place was a Mr Gomes, whose address was said to be in an apartment block in Thanet Street, not far from St Pancras Station, central London. Enquiries there failed to uncover Mr Gomes, however, or any explanation for his prominence on the Dollarjet prize list.

A neighbour said: "You will have to go a long way to find Mr Gomes. I'm afraid. He left a few months ago and his wife moved out in May. I believe he is in Africa, but he left no forwarding address."

The Home Office has said it regards Dollarjet as an unlawful lottery. "Vienna is outside our jurisdiction, of course, so we cannot prosecute anybody there," an official explained.

"But we are concerned that people inside the UK are being approached to join Dollarjet and perhaps distribute its literature. Our advice is that if people receive approaches from this organisation they should report them to the police."

Building societies move towards letting homes under possession

By MARGARET DIBBEN

SOME building societies have decided to rent out houses taken into possession rather than try to sell them in the current depressed market.

The Halifax has already started doing this on a small scale and the Nationwide Anglia may follow this autumn.

The Woolwich has considered the option but has no plans to proceed at present. However, since house sales failed to respond to the traditional spring upturn and repossessions have increased sharply in recent months, this is an option that more societies could follow.

There are practical problems connected with letting as opposed to selling a defaulters' home but there are no legal reasons why a society should not do so.

Les Wise, general manager mortgages and insurance at the Nationwide Anglia, said: "The Building Societies Act imposes on us a duty to sell repossessed homes at the best possible price but it doesn't state that we must sell the property."

Sam Gracie, Halifax's controller of lending operations, said: "The old remedy of selling on the open market, hopefully making a profit and paying the customer back a bit of money is not always open to us now so we have to look at alternatives."

Building societies have a responsibility to do their best for the customer, including borrowers who have defaulted on their loans. By letting property, said Mr Gracie, any rent coming in goes to the mortgage account, which keeps the debt from rising and is in the borrower's best interest.

"If we sell for a higher price than we could have got six months' before, the borrower will get a better return."

But there were drawbacks to letting. "In most circumstances, the property has to be let furnished which is costly because the furniture is worth nothing at the end of it all."

"And to do sensible letting, you have to give people a reasonable period for the tenancy so you are locked in for some considerable time. Then, when you let people don't look after it as well as their own home."

Nationwide Anglia looked

at the possibility of renting property at the beginning of the year. Mr Wise said: "We asked our estate agency arm if there was a market to rent repossessed properties. Unfortunately we got a fairly negative response because they were looking to the spring when they expected house sales to improve."

He added: "We will now give more serious thought to letting and look at the implications and the cost benefits of doing it."

"The market hasn't picked up this spring and we will be reassessing this as a solution for looking after these properties over the autumn and winter."

In recent weeks, the number of repossessed properties has increased and societies are not able to sell them as fast as they are coming on to their books. Many borrowers are now voluntarily asking their lenders to repossess their homes.

"Up to six months ago, we didn't have that many actual properties in possession but there has been an enormous number come in during 1990," said Mr Wise.

Since the end of the financial year on April 5, Nationwide Anglia has taken in over 600 properties and disposed of just over 300. Mr Wise expects to be taking properties into possession at a rate approaching 800 to 900 a quarter.

David Small, general manager for housing and legal services at the Woolwich, agreed that repossessions have increased.

"We took a few more last month than I would have chosen."

"It is still under control but much higher seasonally than I would choose and higher than the first couple of months for the year."

Mr Small does not rule out the possibility at some stage of selling properties to a Woolwich subsidiary which rents houses.

The Halifax has rented out a few properties in areas like Kensington in London where there is a big letting market and where tenants will pay quite high rents.

Mr Gracie said: "Renting is an option not a panacea. It is not suitable for the average possession we have because there are too many downsides."

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THE TIMES 1000 1989-1990

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Commission sells investors short

Financial advice can seriously damage your investment, reports Janet Walford



PAULA YOUENS

INVESTORS who pay commission through their pension or insurance policy payments instead of opting for an up-front fee find that the final payout is devastatingly reduced.

Brokers who sell life insurance policies or pension plans are usually paid by commission. This applies whether the adviser is independent and able to select from all the products on the market, or an agent tied to the products of a single life company.

The life insurer pays commission to the agent or adviser from the premiums or contributions which the consumer pays for the plan. Although most people seem to prefer to pay for their advice in instalments, like this, they could change their minds once they realise exactly how much this can amount to over the years.

The solution is to pay a fee at the outset so that a much greater proportion of each premium goes towards providing benefits.

These are the findings of a survey to be published next week in the July issue of *Money Management* magazine, which reviews the effects of commission payments on the personal pension plans of 40 different companies.

Until recently, life companies were not prepared to offer plans without commission. For independent advisers who charged fees, the only alternative was to rebate the commission to the client.

This was unsatisfactory because although rebated, the deduction of commission still had the same effect on final benefits.

However, one of the effects of the Financial Services Act was that the old arrangement between insurance companies to limit the amount of commission to an agreed maximum was abandoned in favour of a free market.

Unfortunately, one of the side-effects of the free market was to push up commissions. And with the added impact of companies having to reveal more information to customers about the commission paid, more and more indepen-

dent advisers are turning to fee charging.

Consequently more insurance companies are prepared to quote products without commission. The amount of fee charged will, of course, depend on how complicated your affairs are, but for something as comparatively straightforward as a personal pension the fee should be about £500.

This, of course, has to be paid in a lump sum at the outset, unlike commission which is paid in instalments over the term of the policy. Almost two-thirds of the commission comes out of the first year's premiums, so affecting performance from the outset.

When investors pay a fee they lose interest on that money. Allowing for interest at 13 per cent, the £500 equates to £1,697 over 10 years. But this is still much

cheaper than paying by commission, unless the annual contributions are less than £750.

Take, for example, a personal pension with a contribution level of £5,000 a year over 10 years for a man due to retire at the age of 60. If he paid commission, his plan would be worth on average £5,802 less at maturity compared with the £1,697 for the fee. The calculation assumes a year on year 13 per cent growth rate for the pension.

In the worst case given in the survey the return would be reduced by £10,751. The best case was a reduction of £2,770, which is still £1,000 more

expensive than paying a fee at the outset. If the plan was for 25 years instead of ten the £500 fee would work out at a total cost of £10,615 at 13 per cent a year.

This may seem a lot until it is compared with the loss of benefits directly caused by paying commission. On average, this works out at a massive £54,477. The biggest loss of benefits was £95,676, with the smallest being £26,934.

One surprise in the survey was the relatively poor showing of the non-commission paying offices. These are life companies which make a point of saying that they pay no commission to independent advisers.

However, they do pay commission to their own sales staff. The best known offices of this kind are Equitable Life and London Life.

The survey shows that in the great majority of cases the individual would pay less in charges by taking out a plan with one of the commission paying offices that are quoting non-commission terms, even after the fee for independent advice is taken into account.

This is because the life office will not pay commission to either their own sales staff or to brokers.

One final point. A personal pension or life policy can only be bought free of commission through an independent financial adviser, who will charge you a fee instead. The companies will not allow customers to bypass the system to avoid all payment.

Janet Walford is editor of *Money Management*.

Comparison of fees or commission

	10 years	25 years
Average projected retirement fund	101,075	758,355
Cost of £500 fee paid at outset	1,697	10,615
Reduction in projected fund from commission:		
lowest	2,770	26,934
average	5,802	54,477
highest	10,751	85,676

Charges deducted from commission-free plans

	10 years	25 years
Average projected retirement fund	101,075	758,355
Lowest charges	3,052	41,042
Average charges	7,997	125,895
Highest charges	12,851	224,372
London Life	9,029	144,207
Equitable Life	10,128	151,950

All figures for Tables 1 and 2 based on £5,000 a year premium for a male due to retire at age 60. Growth rate assumed is 13 per cent a year.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 45).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weekly Total
1	+5	+3	+2	+2	+6			
2	+6	+3	+3	+2	+2			
3	+5	+1	+7	+4	+3			
4	+4	+2	+1	+3	+8			
5	+4	+3	+6	+4	+1			
6	+7	+5	+2	+4	+3			
7	+8	+5	+4	+6	+2			
8	+4	+1	+2	+3	+6			
9	+5	+3	+5	+4	+3			
10	+8	+5	+5	+6	+2			
11	+7	+4	+5	+5	+5			
12	+3	+2	+7	+3	+2			
13	+8	+5	+3	+5	+4			
14	+7	+2	+3	+2	+4			
15	+5	+1	+4	+1	+5			
16	+3	+1	+6	+4	+1			
17	+5	+1	+2	+1	+4			
18	+5	+2	+6	+5	+2			
19	+7	+4	+3	+4	+4			
20	+7	+2	+1	+1	+4			
21	+4	+3	+5	+3	+1			
22	+5	+2	+1	+4	+2			
23	+6	+7	+4	+7	+2			
24	+5	+2	+1	+3	+3			
25	+4	+2	+3	+2	+4			
26	+4	+1	+7	+5	+2			
27	+8	+5	+5	+5	+3			
28	+6	+3	+1	+3	+2			
29	+8	+3	+2	+3	+5			
30	+6	+5	+2	+2	+2			
31	+3	+2	+6	+8	+3			
32	+5	+5	+2	+2	+3			
33	+7	+4	+3	+7	+3			
34	+5	+2	+2	+1	+5			
35	+5	+1	+1	+2	+4			
36	+7	+6	+3	+6	+3			
37	+5	+3	+1	+3	+4			
38	+6	+3	+4	+5	+2			
39	+3	+2	+5	+5	+1			
40	+6	+2	+4	+5	+3			
41	+4	+3	+2	+1	+5			
42	+4	+1	+5	+3	+1			
43	+7	+3	+3	+5	+3			
44	+6	+4	+1	+2	+3			

Act paves way for fees-based service

By PAUL NUKI

SMALL investors, who traditionally have had no option but to pay for savings and investment products through commissions, may soon be offered the option of paying for all financial advice in cash.

This projected change has been forced by the Financial Services Act and the requirement it has placed on independent advisers to declare the amount of commission they are being paid. Tied salesmen linked to only one company are under no such obligation.

Arthur Selman, a director of the Securities and Investment Board, said: "Fee charging is a hallmark of professionalism. The future health of the independent market depends on independent advisers cultivating a professional image."

For the consumer the move can only be positive. Commissions will remain an option for those who cannot afford to pay a fee, while those who pay can make significant savings. Of the independent advisers already working on a fee basis most are accountants and solicitors. Their core services have always been charged at an hourly rate, so to ask a fee for financial planning comes as a matter of course.

The size of the fee charged, like commission, varies enormously. Depending on the individual advisers experience and the firm's pedigree, investors can expect to pay anything between £50 and £150 an hour for a full service.

"Anybody of any size would be better off on a fees related basis," said Alan Kelly, senior financial planning consultant at Grant Thornton's, the accountants. His argument hangs not on the premise that fees will always work out cheaper than commissions but that only by paying a fee are non-commission based, generic recommendations likely to be put forward.

This is the crux of the issue for investors who want to plan for the long term.

Few advisers offer such a service as it does not pay to spend time mapping out life-long financial strategies encompassing everything from tax mitigation to high street banking. For planning of this type a fee must be paid if the adviser is to survive.

But things are gradually improving. Two life insurers, Provident Life and Skandia Life have set up subsidiaries selling fee-based products.

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One can... any... of... a... draw... any... police... so doing... others... JOHN... WYNDHAM.

Mr. Michael

From Mr. Michael... Sir, One of the... inflation... amount of... a letter... of... who at present... current... He reminds... at any time... and more... him. He says... able to... bills or a... term was... hold budget.

This small... slope. It... mention... changes in... He suggests... ment is... purchase... culture, home... or leisure... holidays.

Now I have... money from... the excellent... Michael... the money... As a result... man.

These close... get into... Whilst not... Government... dom require...

Paying rates and community cha

From Mr. George... Sir, There is an... brought about... any charge... described by... (June 2).

My son and his... abroad are... London and... furnished house... which was... summer and... rates (about £5... and water rates... occur to me... April 1, 1990... be payable.

If the rent... unchanged then... month which... paid over by... respect of rates... into his pocket... and his wife... paying the comm... unable to under... tenant is paying... wonder how... problem is? Yours sincerely, PROF. SAMUEL... The London... Medical College... Turner Street, Whitechapel, EL.

Insurance for bu

From Mr. George... Sir, Would it be... you to answer... in your column... 1. Are both... comments... 2. Do I really... them from... by the Halifax? Yours sincerely, GEORGE PEOPLES, 32 Canon Lane, Derry, Northern Ireland.

Need require... to have adequate... insurance to make sure...

LETTERS

Continuing theft problem of valuables sent by post

From Mr Edward Pond
Sir, This morning I received through the ordinary first class mail a new credit card. At various times recently I have also received unsolicited cheque books, and a building Society account book in an unsealed envelope. All this in spite of numerous requests not to send me valuable negotiable instruments through the post.

The local postman has had four attempts made upon him to steal his mail, three of them successful. One attempt, involving a passerby who intervened, resulted in him being slashed with a knife.

At the last count there had been 11 attacks on postmen working out of the local sorting office in the last year or so.

An unfortunate aspect of this sorry situation is that the Royal Mail refuse to inform residents in a particular walk following a theft that their mail might have been stolen. Unfortunate people are left therefore waiting anxiously for their Girocheques, pension books, travel tickets or whatever.

A letter from the director of

field operations, Royal Mail dated April 20 said: "Unfortunately our postmen are now liable to attack in many parts of London and Mr Pond is quite correct in saying that there have been three incidents of mail theft in the Blackheath Park area recently. It is now necessary for delivery staff to be accompanied by escorts when delivering the mail to reduce the risk of attack."

Until this sorry state of affairs is publicized and remedied the public will go on thinking that the Royal Mail is sacrosanct.

The banks and others continue to send valuables by unrecorded mail and more importantly, cheque books and credit cards used by unscrupulous thieves before their rightful owners ever know they were supposed to have them.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD POND,
Chartered Designer,
The Coach House Studios,
99 Blackheath Park,
SE3.
June 15.

Penalty of using non-account branches

From Mr John B. Pope
Sir, It seems unacceptable that clearing bank such as the Midland requires a £6 fee to cash a cheque at a branch other than the one where the account is held.

One can pay money in at any branch. We are in the age of electronics and it should be a standard procedure to withdraw one's own money from any branch one chooses without financial penalty. I have twice successfully insisted on so doing, and recommend that others follow my example.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. POPE,
Wyndhams,

Quarry Lane,
Chicks Grove,
Tisbury,
Salisbury,
Wilt.

Midland Bank explained that customers are charged if they want to exceed their cheque guarantee card limit at other branches. Midland branches are not linked by computer and a telephone enquiry has to be made of the branch holding the account. This costs both time and money. Customers have cash machines available for making withdrawals, said a spokesman. The charge was levied to discourage customers using other branches.

Mr Micawber's timely advice

From Mr Lindsay Tweedale
Sir, One of the ways to reduce inflation is to reduce the amount of personal borrowing. A letter from the manager of Lloyds Bank, Ramsgate, who at present has my small current account is relevant.

He reminds me that I may at any time borrow £2,500, and more if I have a chat with him. He says this is a comfortable buffer against unexpected bills or a simple and short term way to stretch the household budget.

This smells of a slippery slope. In fairness he does mention that there are interest charges, in fact 25.3 per cent.

He suggests this arrangement is suitable for any major purchase such as cars, furniture, home improvements or leisure items including holidays.

Now I have never borrowed money from anyone, believing the excellent advice of Mr Micawber: "If you have not the money, do without it."

As a result I am a happy man.

These glossy exhortations to get into debt are immoral. Whilst not illegal at present, Government may in its wisdom require a prominent

warning to be displayed on every one.

If you cannot afford the cost of the coveted article now, you certainly cannot afford the cost plus the punishing APR of 25.3 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
LINDSAY TWEEDALE,
20 High Street,
Minster,
Ramsgate,
Kent.

Paying rates and community charge

From Professor Samuel Cohen
Sir, There is another anomaly brought about by the community charge to add to that described by Miss Lorna Dell (June 2).

My son and his family from abroad are spending a year in London and have rented a furnished house. The rental, which was fair, was inclusive of rates (about £65 per month) and water rates. It did not occur to my son that from April 1, 1990 no rates would be payable.

If the rent now remains unchanged then about £65 per month which previously was paid over by the landlord in respect of rates is now going into his pocket whilst my son and his wife are now both paying the community charge. The landlord appears to be unable to understand that his tenant is paying twice. I wonder how common this problem is?

Yours sincerely,
PROF SAMUEL I. COHEN,
The London Hospital Medical College,
Turner Street,
Whitechapel,
E1.

Green answer to flood of junk mail

From Mrs E Colman
Sir, Re: Junk Mail Complaints Rise (June 9).

Your article was most interesting and I noted details of the Mailing Preference Service, but apart from intrusion of privacy I realise that I react fairly positively to junk mail:

1. Appeal for worthy cause - painless: I send a cheque.
2. Junk paper - put with other paper for recycling collection.
3. Envelope's invariably enclosed - stick on 'Save Trees' economy label and use for personal mail: I rarely need to buy envelopes.

Yours sincerely,
MRS E. COLMAN,
P.O. Box 119,
WCI.

Readers' letters for publication are welcome but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

No legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should always be sought.

There is no compulsion to take out contents insurance and it has been estimated that as many as one in four householders do not have this type of cover.

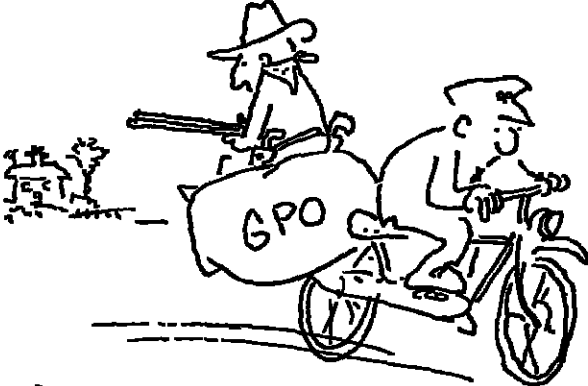
Insurance for buildings and contents

From Mr George Peoples
Sir, Would it be possible for you to answer two questions in your column please:

1. Are both buildings and contents insurance compulsory?
2. Do I really have to buy them from my building society, the Halifax?

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE PEOPLES,
32 Collon Lane,
Derry,
Northern Ireland.

Lenders require homebuyers to have adequate buildings insurance to make sure that



GPO

The price of administration

From D. Thomas
Sir, Four weeks ago I visited my local council officers to collect my travel tokens (I am a pensioner). I was informed that an "administration fee" of £2.50 was payable.

Two weeks ago I discussed the renewal of my motor car insurance with my broker. I had received a slightly more favourable quotation from another insurer for whom my broker was also an agent. I was told that if I wished to change insurer an "administration fee" of £2 would be payable by me to the broker.

This week I asked a garden machinery supplier to quote a price for a particular model of

Misapprehension over who benefits most in delayed cheque transactions

From Mr John Harris
Sir, In his letter appearing in Family Money on June 9, George Gray suggested that banks are out of touch with their customers. I would suggest that Mr Gray is out of touch with reality when he says that transaction delays always favour the banks.

He seems to forget that when a cheque is cashed at another branch, the customer's account is not debited for three days after value has been given, and that in the case of a credit card the customer may obtain up to fifty-six days' interest-free credit at the expense of the bank. So it is apparent that delays in transaction processing can work both for and against the banks and that a customer, if he possesses any initiative, can very much

make the system work in his favour.

Furthermore, Mr Gray states that the bank gains twice as it has the cash to invest. This is a totally incorrect assumption. It may be a little known fact outside banking circles that a branch is in fact, charged at base rate by its head office for the cash held in its tills because by holding assets as cash, the bank is prevented from utilising its assets in areas that would provide a substantial return.

My only hope is that Mr Gray is not a customer of the bank with whom I am employed.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARRIS,
Ruislip,
Middlesex,
June 12.

Hazard of overpayment on direct debit

From Mr G. Claringbold
Sir, There is a further hazard with direct debits (recent letters) if used for paying budget accounts. I have been overpaying British Gas for some time. I wrote reducing the debit and asked for my account to be credited with

£200. They say they do not have the mechanism to credit my account and some weeks later I still await their cheque.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CLARINGBOLD,
14 Tintern Close,
Lytton Grove,
SW15.

110	ΣΑΒ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΚΑΙ	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
111	ΚΑΡΤΑΛΑΚΙΟΥ	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
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ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΑ

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121	ΑΛΛΑΝ-ΒΕΝΕΤ	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
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131	ΑΛΛΑΝ-ΒΕΝΕΤ	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
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WEEKEND MONEY

Inaction louder than words

How easy it is for politicians to gain a round of applause by worrying out loud about the increase in personal debt. Chancellor John Major had his worrybeads out again yesterday in front of a Conservative women's conference in London. Those comfortable ladies agreed with every word. They shared Mr Major's distaste for indiscriminate mail shots and credit advertising.

And like him, they no doubt worried about the trends in the way in which credit is marketed. "Too often the implication is that further borrowing is a good idea for all regardless of their income or their existing level of commitments", Mr Major said. A week ago, the Governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, was on the same tack at an anniversary dinner for the Association of International Savings Banks. He was bawling the "rapid and massive growth in personal borrowing".

He, too, pinned the blame on the advertising of credit. And those involved with credit counselling, those who have seen

families broken by debt, houses repossessed, the misery of poverty exaggerated by loan repayments, will stand on the sidelines and cheer.

Or will they?

To listen to Mr Major or Mr Leigh-Pemberton, one would imagine that neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor the Governor of the Bank of England had any control over matters, that those two wise men could do nothing but wring their hands as credit demand grew. Nonsense. The Treasury and the Bank of England are the very architects of the growth in credit. They allowed the money supply to grow too fast. The commercial banks did what their shareholders expect them to do: lend it.

There is little point in Messrs Major and Leigh-Pemberton trying to control credit by exhortation. It has to be done by regulation, because if the "responsible" lenders listen, and



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

step back, the irresponsible will step right in to fill their place. The Bank of England has the power to limit lending, and the Chancellor has the clout to make it use them. All that is required is the will.

Card trick

Beware the persuasive powers of credit companies suggesting that you should make your partner happy with the gift of a plastic card. Brochures arrive regularly inviting certain charge card holders to give a supplementary card to their spouse for a mere

£15 a year. The costs, as the case history on page 49 shows, can be a great deal more and might even result in bankruptcy. Yet the invitations carry no health warning.

Some 200,000 Amex cardholders have taken up the offer, probably unaware that giving a card to their partner and agreeing to pay all the bills whatever the circumstances is potentially one of the most dangerous financial decisions a person can make. There is little to stop a spouse from continuing to spend for up to two years after the main cardholder tries to cancel the card.

There are more than 2 million

second cards in issue and the number is rising. Given that nearly two in five marriages are expected to end in divorce, there must be thousands of supplementary cardholders in the throes of separating from the one who pays the bill at any one time. Barclaycard has 1.5 million additional cardholders and the introduction of its £8 a year charge next month could increase the number. Second cards are free. Lloyds, which charges £12 a year on its Access card has a half price offer for additional cards.

Supplementary cards are big business. But for the cardholders they can be bad business. The card companies are anxious to increase their market share but by making shared cards more attractive than separate accounts, the issuing companies should bear some responsibility when things go wrong. Since the main cardholder bears all the bills even after the relationship has ended, the card companies should make

sure that the systems for stopping the spending are foolproof.

In the case involving Amex it took at least two weeks for the company to stop authorising blatantly large sums. The opportunities to retain the card appear to have been many and all missed. A single telephone call should be enough to cancel a card. This should be followed up by a letter of confirmation. The case detailed is unusual because the cardholder decided to send the letter by recorded delivery and could show when it arrived. Most people sending such letters will be subject to the vagaries of the postal system. And if they are told that the notification arrived too late to stop a spending spree, they will probably believe it.

The companies reassure us that they always deal with cases sympathetically and that very few joint cards cause them problems. Yet they admit that if an estranged husband or wife refuses to hand over a card they can go on spending until it expires, unless they try to spend more than a shop's floor limit. That simply is not good enough.

Gilts cheered by prospect of ERM entry helping to beat inflation

THE gilt-edged market has been enjoying a modest revival, spurred on not only by hopes of Britain's early entry into the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) but also by indications that some larger fund managers are selling equities to buy gilts, writes Richard Irving.

From its low in April, the FTA all government stock index has rallied nearly 6 per cent, reflecting a surge in demand from British institutions and overseas investors, which have been encouraged by the strong pound.

But it is the prospect of entry into the ERM that has really given the market cause for cheer. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes Britain into the ERM by the autumn, gilts, which have long suffered in the shadow of rising inflation, will take heart from a decisive move in the fight against it.

If all goes to plan, Chris Anthony, analyst at UBS-Phillips & Drew, believes gilt investors could be looking at a tax-free capital gain of about 18 per cent by mid-1991.

"There could be a mad scramble for gilts, particularly from European investors who will be keen to take full advantage of the much higher interest rates available on this side of the Channel," he says.

Martin Woolter, manager of Fidelity's gilt and fixed interest fund, is equally optimistic. Although a period of consolidation is likely after the latest

bounce, he expects the market to rise by 25 per cent over the next 12-18 months.

Even if investors have to wait longer for Mr Major to act, Mr Anthony believes gilts will be protected from any significant setback. "Every time the market falters," he says, "there are few genuine sellers, only cheap buyers taking the opportunity to pick up some extra stock."

Mr Anthony expects the longer end of the market to perform particularly well before any ERM announcement and recommends that investors looking for capital gains go for a stock redeemable after the year 2000.

"But once the market's gut reaction is over, it will be worth switching into a shorter stock in the 1993-1995 area, which should perform very well when interest rates finally start to come down," he says.

John Sheppard, Warburg's economist, is less enthusiastic. He believes that most of the good news has been discount-

ed. "As far as EMS membership is concerned, it's much better to travel than to arrive," he says.

"On purely economic grounds, it is very hard to make a case for buying gilts. At best, I'm only expecting a neutral performance from the market over the next year."

But whatever the outlook, private investors, fearful of the seemingly complex nature of the market, or perhaps of becoming embroiled in another Barlow Clowes or Dunsdale, tend to be wary of gilts.

The market is, in fact, relatively easy to understand and simple to deal in. Government securities are made up of a coupon, which denotes the amount of interest investors will receive over the year, and a redemption date, when the Government will repay the bond, normally at £100.

In the interim, they are traded on the Stock Exchange, so investors may lose some of their capital if they sell at the wrong time. Interest can be

paid gross, which makes them particularly attractive to non-taxpayers such as non-working wives, and there is no capital gains tax to pay on any profit.

Investments can be made in a spread of gilts through either unit trusts or investment trusts but these can be expensive in terms of management fees and dealing spreads (the difference between the price at which investors buy and sell). Instead, investors should consider dealing through the National Savings Stock Register.

The register offers a cheap and simple way to deal in gilts through the post, rather than through a broker.

A £1,000 purchase would incur a £4 charge against a broker's minimum commission of £15-£20. And since the stock is registered in the purchaser's name, rather than in the name of a nominee company, there is no possibility of fraud. Investors may, however, suffer if the market moves against them while their application is in the post.

A selection of gilts is available through the register, from funding 6 per cent 1993, which guarantees a capital gain of 25 per cent if held to maturity, to Treasury 15½ per cent 1998, currently yielding 13½ per cent a year. However, the maximum amount that may be invested in any one stock in any one day is £10,000. There is no limit to the total amount of stock investors may hold. Application forms can be obtained at most Post Offices.

Investment diviners probe mysteries of the markets



All in the stars: Elizabeth Thornton studies the zodiac

By BARBARA ELLIS

ASTROLOGERS and chartists in the investment world have more in common than either might like to believe. Both seek out significant patterns in the stars or in the bars of price charts.

And both attract much scorn from analysts who use the conventional tools of investment forecasting: the basic financial facts and figures relating to companies, currencies and stock markets.

But astrologers and chartists alike claim a success rate which comfortably beats pure chance and they supply some highly plausible demonstrations of their arts.

Fred Stafford, of Investment Data Services based in Stockport, Greater Manchester, approached chartism via conventional beginnings.

"In 1972 I gave £100,000 to a Manchester stockbroker and saw it go down to £50,000 within a very few months," he said. "I was shattered - shell-shocked."

Applying the Gann system, which uses bar charts based on highest and lowest prices, Mr Stafford said that investors would have sold shares like British & Commonwealth and Sock Shop long before their recent troubles. They would also have quit the Japanese market up to five weeks before it crashed earlier this year.

Although he emphasises that he is not given to prophecy, Mr Stafford adds that he would prefer to be out of the UK market at the moment because the index has hit its highest level three times and such "triple tops" are an extremely dangerous sign.

"We are not recommending any UK purchases at all at the moment," he said. To test astrology against chartist theory, Weekend Money staged a test for Elizabeth Thornton, the astrologer, requesting star profiles of two companies, treating incorporation dates as their dates of birth.

Ms Thornton correctly identified Sock Shop, which she knew only as a company incorporated on February 2,

1983, as being in the fashion business and having problems dating back more than a year relating to cash flow and over-rapid expansion. This showed up in such signs as a "grand trine" or 120 degree aspect in fire, and Jupiter in Cancer making a T-square with Mars and Venus.

"Somehow there had to be a redefinition of their purpose, but I think the whole outcome of it all was beneficial," said Ms Thornton, adding that if the company survived there were wonderful prospects ahead, especially when Jupiter went over its moon in Leo.

"I would definitely buy their shares. Sell until Christmas, then buy," she said. Ms Thornton took a less positive view of British &

Commonwealth, known to her as company B, incorporated on November 1, 1953.

"Intrigue, power and money games going on," she said. "This company operates behind closed doors in secrecy." The moon in Taurus was the indication of a lot of money, while Jupiter in Pluto signified power, manipulation and secrecy.

Three planets in Libra including Mercury and Mars meant that the company probably presented a better image than was the reality, said Ms Thornton.

She seemed to hint at B&C's disastrous purchase of Atlantic Computer, identifying "deals made on insubstantial grounds", and noting that these had failed because they

had been made when Neptune was squared with Mars. "Every deal they tried to do was frustrated," she said.

Ms Thornton predicted that Pluto would bring skeletons out of the cupboard at company B, but not for another couple of years.

"It is starting to happen but the crunch point will be around Christmas 1991," she said.

Ms Thornton also has a neat line in put-downs for sceptics who question the validity of astrology, claiming that whoever was in charge of each successful privatisation clearly timed flotation day to coincide with favourable astral and planetary positions.

Each of the three biggest privatisations took place when Jupiter, the planet of good fortune, had entered the appropriate astral location: Aquarius for British Telecom, Pisces for British Gas and Cancer for the water companies of England and Wales.

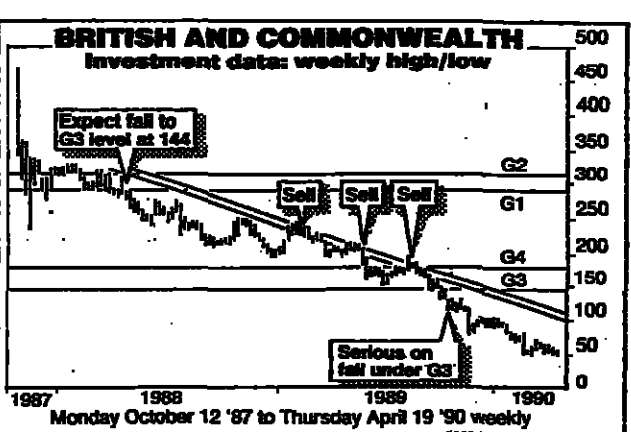
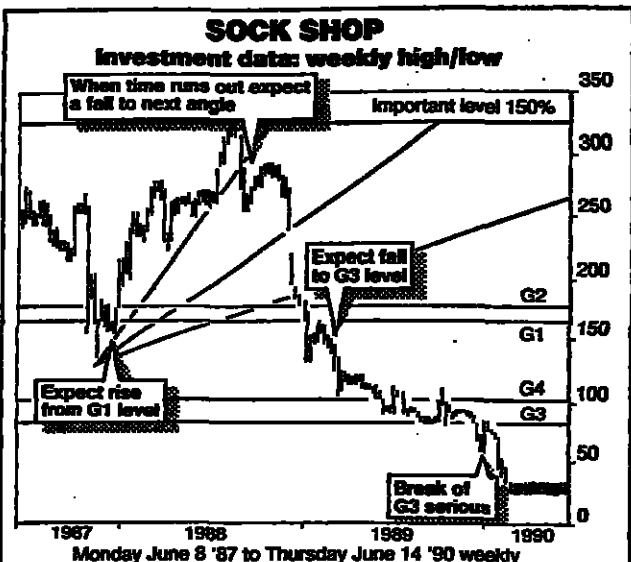
Looking at star charts when the water privatisation was announced, Ms Thornton said she was puzzled. "They had some horrible oppositions from Capricorn around that time," she said. "I couldn't see how they would coincide with Jupiter, but I could not believe it when they waited."

Mr Stafford tested more than 130 stock market systems before he settled for the chart theories of W.D. Gann, an American who had died in 1954 after reputedly making a million dollars a year for each year of his adult life.

Mr Stafford describes the Gann system as "dead simple", but that may be because he is used to it. For newcomers, the talk of retracement and resistance levels sounds a little arcane, not to mention G1 and G3.

G1, as Mr Stafford explains, is the highest extreme reached by a price divided by two, giving a "major resistance level". G3 is the same highest price divided by four.

The Gann system uses bar charts on which the bars connect the highest and lowest prices over a chosen period (one week in the charts on the left).



Vantage card aims to curb spending

By JON ASHWORTH

THE TSB has launched a budget account which uses a Visa card with a fixed credit limit to help customers keep monthly spending in check.

The bank's new Vantage card is similar to a store card, but charges a lower rate of interest and can be used more widely.

Cardholders set their credit limit at 15 to 30 times their chosen monthly payment up to a limit of £3,000. Those who set aside £20 a month would have a

credit limit of between £300 and £600. The account pays 5 per cent net interest on credit balances.

The rate of interest for cardholders who fall into the red is 23.8 per cent, below the average charged by most store and credit cards. But comparison with other card rates is difficult because the card has no interest-free period of up to 56 days. Store card rates vary widely, from Selfridges with 26.8 per cent to Burtons which charges 38.4 per cent.

There is no charge for taking out a

Vantage card, although a £1 service charge will be made with withdrawals of cash.

Meanwhile, Barclays has announced that it is to raise the interest rate on its Assent budget card to 22.2 per cent on statements issued from August 20. The rate will remain at the present level until January 1991 for all who applied for the card before the end of last year. It also has no interest-free period.

Unlike Vantage, Assent is linked to the MasterCard network. Its spending limit is up to 25 times the monthly payment.

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

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A classical stockbroker banks on the high street

By CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS PROFILE

Sir Nicholas Goodison

All Goodison's are described "as arrogant", admits the chairman of TSB, the bank that still likes to say yes, "but it is basically shyness".

Inside the tall, thin, crusty exterior of Sir Nicholas Goodison, reddening a little at the indignity of talking about himself, lurks a Cambridge classics scholar who once wanted desperately to be an English teacher. "Because I think it's the most beautiful language".

Sir Nicholas's description of himself differs markedly from his public image.

"I'm far more gregarious than people think," he says. "I enjoy listening and talking. And I did quite a bit of cabaret when I was at school - I used to write the scripts. I certainly don't think of myself as a dedicated intellectual, which is how I'm often described."

Indeed, the most obvious changes at the Trustees Savings Bank since his arrival as chairman 18 months ago have been entirely physical. The main board has been trimmed from 31 to 17 directors, and 5,000 of the 42,000 people it employs will lose their jobs during the next five years.

At the same time impressionist paintings and modern sculptures now adorn every available wall and surface. Humidifiers emit water vapour from a corner of almost every room, maintaining the correct atmosphere.

Sir Nicholas, aged 56, is after all, chairman of the Courtauld Institute. His recent move into the north wing of Somerset House is, he says, "with almost adolescent excitement - my greatest achievement to date." He is also chairman of the National Art Collections Fund.

"Sometimes we think he cares more about the paintings than the people who work here," said one TSB employee, only half seriously. Indeed he has often been criticised for being too detached in his human relationships. "He's not the sort of man who would ever go out for a drink after work," said one colleague of long-standing. "He would always find an excuse."

In the sanctuary of Sir Nicholas's salmon pink fifth floor office in the TSB's Milk Street headquarters, art books litter the desk. And a cutting from *The Times* about the role of the House of Lords has been receiving detailed scrutiny. Noticeable by its absence is a grandfather clock - a subject in which he is a respected expert.

"I don't know why not - I had one in my stock exchange office. Do you think, when the TSB makes a really good profit, that perhaps I'll be allowed one?"

Politics, commerce - these days the TSB - and the arts are, he says, all of equal importance in his life.

He manages to fit them all in by rationing his time on other activities. "I don't watch television, I don't play golf and I don't read the Sunday newspapers - I stopped reading them when the *Sunday Times* introduced a colour supplement in the 1960s."

He admits that he also considered becoming a politician. "But then I got engrossed in the family business (a third generation stockbroker, the family firm was then HE Goodison, later Quilter Goodison) and of course it became impractical. But I keep in touch."

"I very much enjoy my contacts with Westminster and I've got a lot of political friends. I enjoy doing whatever I can to improve the

understanding between business and politics."

It is, perhaps, the House of Lords which will, in due course, allow him to fulfil those early political ambitions. "There aren't enough businessmen in either house, there aren't enough people who can really stand on their hind feet and talk," he says. With a somewhat awkward laugh, and clearly choosing his words with caution, he adds: "There aren't enough businessmen in the Lords."

But all of this is a long way removed from the hurly-burly of Big Bang, which Sir Nicholas oversaw during his 13-year stint as chairman of the stock exchange.

If he had his time over again, there would not, he says, be anything he would do differently. "My only regret is that the shortage of resources and the shortage of time

'I don't watch television, I don't play golf and I don't read the Sunday papers'

meant that the reform of London's settlement system fell behind. We should have had Taurus here years ago - but how could you conceivably bring that in at the same time as everything else because of pressure on resources?"

Big Bang has, he insists, been "a great success". "It had to be done as it was done. The crucial part of it was not all the visible bits about the dealing arrangements, but the opening up of the membership of the exchange to international houses."

London simply wouldn't have stood a chance of being the major centre unless it attracted those international houses. "The change in the dealing system, fixed commissions and so on, historically will be seen as inconsequential. The prime purpose was to ensure that London maintained and strengthened its position in the international market and that has been a tremendous success."

"He is absolutely right," said a fellow stock exchange committee member. "We had no time, had to make snap decisions and he led us - and led us well. I admire him enormously, he is a brilliant intellectual, but I don't like him. He tends to talk down to people. He is a classics scholar

and classics scholars don't get on with plebs, I suppose."

The reunification of Germany posed no threat to London as the financial capital of its time zone, Sir Nicholas said.

"Some people in Germany would like to see Frankfurt as the financial centre of Europe but I don't believe it will happen. London has attracted the critical mass of skills and capital. I don't see London losing its position."

But in the domestic market the "pain" will, he said, continue for at least another year.

"In UK equities we went from three or four jobbing firms to 35 market-making firms of whom something like a dozen had ambitions to be the top market making firm. In gilt-edged we went from two leading jobbers to something like 27. They all poured in people, capital and resources. Inevitably we were going to get over-capacity. It took time to work through the system because many of them were banks with deep pockets and they were going to stand the strain for a while to see whether they could establish themselves."

Sir Nicholas also feels strongly that links between industry and schools must be improved. He is critical of the British middle class attitude which still sees the professions as an infinitely preferable career to business.

Yet of his own three children, the eldest, Katharine, aged 27, is a solicitor at Slaughter & May, his son Adam, 25, is a barrister, and his youngest child Rachel, 22, is an undergraduate at Edinburgh University.

His own education was clearly an exceptionally happy one - "Although it did have its frustrations," he adds. And, paradoxically, he admits that he too would like to have had a professional qualification. Probably as an accountant.

It was when he was in the upper fifth form that the classics master subjected him and his classmates at Marlborough College to weekly lectures on Renaissance artists, and it was this that formed the basis of his interest in the art world today. "We started with Giotto and ended the term with Paul Nash in July - and had to write a short appreciation each week."

It is this section of his life which he shares with his wife Judith, née Abel-Smith, and, coincidentally, a second cousin of the incumbent Stock Exchange chairman, Andrew Hugh Smith.

"We used to sing in the Bach choir together. But at the moment she is in the north country guiding American scholars around English and Scottish country houses. She runs the Attingham Trust, which organises visits from Americans and others to promote the decorative arts. We meet occasionally."

Apart from never having learned to paint, his only regret in his life thus far is that, at an early age, he did not learn fluency in another language - other than Latin or Greek.

"Like so many badly educated Englishmen I was never taught to speak," he said, before revealing the dry wit even his critics acknowledge.

"I had to take French in the scholarship exam to King's College, Cambridge and I remember being faced with a bit of unseen translation in which people kept on dressing and undressing. I decided to translate 'piscine' as 'brothel' because I didn't know what else it could possibly be."

regulation the stock exchange has lost £500 million a year, and I wouldn't call that a 'raving success'."

To encourage a "share owning culture" in the UK we should, Sir Nicholas said, "move towards fiscal equality in the treatment of savings."

"We have got to change the culture. Long term I would like to see people's savings free of tax."

"That's what we're getting in Peps and Tessa and I would like to see that principle extended until in the end your pool of savings isn't taxed and your expenditure is."

"That's a very radical reform and it would be much too expensive for the Treasury to entertain as a quick reform, but let's move towards it."

He also advocates roll-over-relief from capital gains tax "when you're selling one share and buying another. I think capital gains tax is basically wrong in principle - and it's a very inhibiting factor. "If capital gains tax were not so vicious we would certainly have a better market in smaller companies."

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Greatest achievement: Sir Nicholas in the north wing of Somerset House with Manet's *Un bar aux Folies Bergère*

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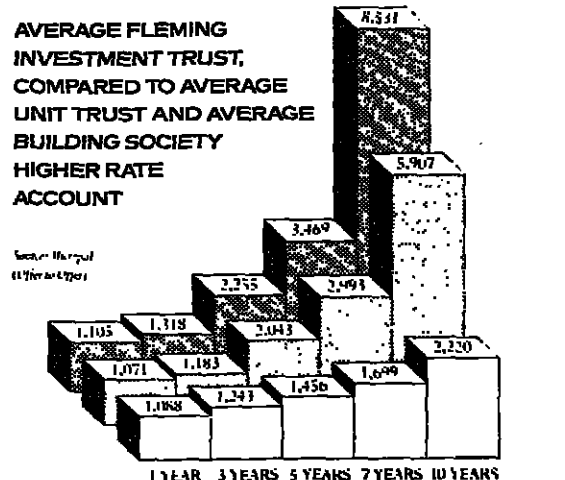
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Going mob handed to the AGM

CAPITAL CITY

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

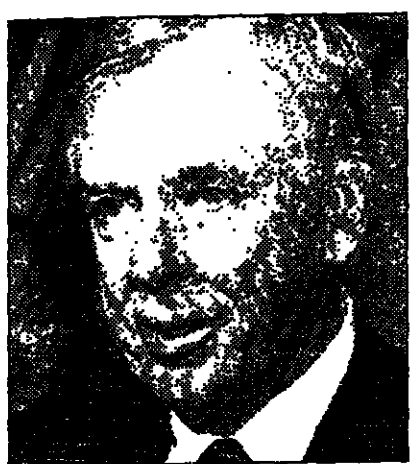
IF YOU happen to need a gangster for the odd job in Tokyo next Thursday you may be out of luck. They will be too busy making a nuisance of themselves at the 1,426 shareholders' meetings being held across Japan. It is an annual fixture in their diaries and a yearly headache for company chairmen.

T Boone Pickens, the Texan oilman who showed up at last year's meeting of Koito, the car parts company that is giving him a cold shoulder rather than the boardroom seats he is after, said the presence of mobsters made it "the most unusual shareholders' meeting I've ever attended in my life".

For Mr Pickens, who is back in town to create his own sort of havoc once again at Koito's annual gathering next Thursday, it was an introduction to another baffling side of Japanese capitalism: the professional becker cum extortionist, known as "sokaiya".

"I thought they asked some very good questions," he drawled, cheekily, after seeing the Koito board pilloried for 90 minutes by some friends of friends. "Still, that's an interesting way to ask for an income statement."

In a country where consensus is king, and where directors refer to "our company" when addressing shareholders never "your company", the sokaiya earn their keep by intimidating anyone who might be thinking of asking the board an awkward question and thereby extending the meeting beyond the planned 15-



Pickens: some very good questions

minute formality. They are equally willing to intimidate managements who fail to pay.

It has been illegal since 1982 for a firm to pay off sokaiya, though that has not

weakened their muscle. Japanese companies hold their annual meetings on the same day in an attempt to spread the sokaiya more thinly. But there are more than enough of them to go round. Thousands of police will attend next week's annual meetings to try to prevent the racketeers from causing trouble.

But today Japan's gangsters, or yakuza, no longer need the pretext of blackmail to become angry about a firm's balance sheet. Lured by Tokyo's booming stock market, they have turned to share-dealing as a way of recycling and swelling their earnings from crime.

Police and stockbrokers say the yakuza's influence is now big enough to start buying spears if word gets out that they are filling their pockets with a particular stock. But Tokyo's crash has stung them, and they are not the sort to stay at home weeping into their knitting. "Some speculators who were managing funds for yakuza are now being harassed by gang members for failing to produce profits from their money," said one shocked stock market insider.

To tide them over between annual meetings and until equities recover, Japan's mobs have turned to art. They lend money at high interest to art buyers and take the painting as collateral. When borrowers fail to pay up, the yakuza gets a pricy canvas at a bargain price. Some crime syndicates have collected so many that they have opened their own galleries.

SUMMARY

Danger of sharing the plastic

MORE than two million people have plastic cards that they cannot cancel. The supplementary cards can be used for up to two years by a former husband or wife without them being able to stop it. Cardholders who are currently considering saving money by taking out additional cards are warned to think again. **Page 49**

Frome merger

The Building Societies Commission yesterday gave the go-ahead for the merger of the Frome Selwood building society with the Stroud & Swindon after just two days of deliberations. It normally takes two weeks. A hearing was held in the Somerset town on Tuesday and the merger takes place on July 1. **Page 50**

Insurance rise

Householders and motorists were warned this week to expect premium increases of more than 16 per cent by the Association of British Insurers. Now customers must wait to find out how much it will actually cost them and when they will have to pay more. **Page 46**

Naturally shy



Sir Nicholas Goodison reveals that his shyness may give people the wrong impression in his profile interview with Carol Leonard. **Page 55**

Unit trusts

From today a unit trust performance table will appear each Saturday in Weekend Money. The full page will enable unit trust investors to judge how their funds compare with others in their sectors. Performance is measured over one month and one year, and details the percentage spread between the buying and selling prices, enabling investors to make fair comparisons between the different units. **Page 44**

Your views



Postal theft, junk mail, direct debits and bank charges. These are just some of the subjects to cause readers concern. **Letters, Page 53**

BUSINESS

Weston rebuke

Garry Weston, chairman of Associated British Foods, strongly rebuked Ephraim Margulies, former chairman of Berisford International, yesterday. He also warned shareholders that ABF may write down the value of its 23 per cent stake in the British sugar group if Berisford is forced to make further provisions against its New York property portfolio. **Page 40**

Bid for Suchard

Philip Morris Companies, the New York-based consumer products conglomerate best known for Marlboro cigarettes, is making an agreed offer for Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss food group, for SwFr 5.4 billion (£2.3 billion). **Page 40**

Atlantic staff

Several former executives of Atlantic Computers, the collapsed computer leasing subsidiary of British & Commonwealth, have set up or are starting computer leasing businesses, often employing former members of the Atlantic sales team on a commission-only basis. Setin Yin Cheng Kai On, Atlantic's former finance director, Jeremy Cram, a former board member, and Michael Rixon, another sales executive, are at the helm of Mellordata, part of the office systems arm of Sketchley. Between them, they have options worth 15 per cent of the company. **Page 41**

MORE than 200,000 families have already fallen for the concept of "holiday ownership" as it is often called, and another 30,000 will fall for the idea this year. The mushrooming industry already brings in £300 million annually, and it will be worth £1 billion a year by the end of the decade.

Tourists are sold on the idea of "cheap" holidays for life, only to find that the bill for a week runs to £5,000 or more. Regulation is scant.

The Department of Trade and Industry is poised to clamp down on the sale of timeshare in Britain, following a long investigation of much criticised sales techniques. Within the next two weeks, the Office of Fair Trading will present a detailed report on timeshare to the DTI, paving the way for restrictions on selling.

The OFT report is expected to be highly critical of methods which include indiscriminate mailshots promising "free" gifts with no strings attached. But the report will be of little comfort to holidaymakers who have already discovered the timeshare reality, and will not worry the foreign developers who have tightened their grip on many of the most popular resorts. They are well out of reach of the British authorities.

To deal with mounting criticism of the industry, the Timeshare Developers' Association (TDA) was set up in 1987 to regulate members and try to clean up the industry's image. But developers are not obliged to join, and those that have represent only about 40 per cent of British customers.

The TDA has drawn up a code of ethics to prevent misleading advertising and help protect customers who make a purchase. It also fields the thousands of complaints which pour in from timeshare buyers who feel they have been misled or taken offence at the never-ending stream of timeshare mailshots.

The TDA admits that high-pressure sales tactics are openly used in resorts in Spain, Portugal and Greece. And it says that it has no influence at all over American, German or other foreign companies who set up in the resorts and do not become members.

Tom Critchley, the TDA's newly appointed executive chairman, said he hoped to make the association more influential. But he said there was little that could be done about "problem" resorts. "We can advise British holidaymakers not to go near them, but it is difficult to help if they are sitting on a beach in Spain."

One area where the problem is most acute is Tenerife in the Canary Islands, often sold as an undiscovered paradise promising sun, sea and good living. The town of Los Cristianos, once a small fishing village, has become a focus for foreign developers who combine timeshare with more traditional properties aimed at Europeans seeking a place in the sun.

On an area of hillside called Oasis del Sur, Resort Properties is putting the finishing touches to its latest project - an apartment complex called Castle Harbour. For £150, the company will fly would-be British investors to the Canaries for a four day inspection trip. There is no overt pressure to buy. But a stone's throw from Castle Harbour, at a sister resort

Take care when sharing your place in the sun

Timeshare is big business in Britain, but its selling methods are under scrutiny. Jon Ashworth visits Tenerife and discovers those attractive offers and sandy beaches may not always be quite what they seem.



Wheeling and dealing on the highway: An eye-catching timeshare promotion at Playa de las Americas, Tenerife

called the Beverly Hills Club, a very different picture unfolds. The club has become a feeding ground for the high-pressure timeshare salesmen who have invaded Tenerife, threatening to turn it into a tourist's nightmare. Touts roam the streets in search of victims, on motorbikes and in brightly painted cars. Brochures promising free gifts fill the cafes and restaurants. Inside the club, slick salesmen promise dream-holidays for as little as £49 a week. The final bill can turn out to be £5,000 or more for a couple of weeks in the sun.

Club Riviera, the British timeshare company and a TDA member, has just moved in next door, calling itself Club Tenerife,

and others are out in force.

Resort Properties moved to Tenerife five years ago, and is now the island's biggest developer. It owns the Beverly Hills Club and yet another timeshare development, the Palm Beach Club, just off the promenade of Playa de las Americas. In Oasis del Sur it has crammed several hundred apartments into a small area of the hillside, grouping them in communities with names like Port Royale, Royal Palm and Beverly Hills Heights.

The apartments are finished to a high standard, and the communities are well maintained. But if Resort Properties and other developers on the island keep building at their present pace, in a matter of

years there will be nothing left on which to build. Last year, the Spanish authorities took some steps to slow development down. No new buildings are allowed close to the sea-front, views must not be obscured, and homes may not be built above a line on the hillside.

Resort Properties alone says there is enough work to keep it building for the next seven years. A new flagship timeshare complex called Hollywood Mirage is to be built higher up the slopes at Oasis del Sur. A vast area of land in the valley is to be turned into a golf course.

The company is American-owned and has made its name building homes in Florida,

California, and the Caribbean. Bob Trotta, the managing director, said high interest rates in Britain had put off buyers who three years ago were only too keen to buy a second home in the sun. "The property business is dead on this island for now. In 1986 and 1987 it was too good to be true. Developers were completely sold out before they even started building."

Mr Trotta said poor sales had forced many developers to turn to timeshare. "There is far too much of it on this island. Holiday ownership is not a cure-all for poor retail business." He agreed that "hard" selling was a problem, but said Resort Properties had no intention of joining the TDA.

"The TDA is an excellent idea, but is unable to fulfil its role. It has lost some of its members, yet sets itself up as an elitist body. We would support it one hundred per cent if it took a different approach."

Resort Properties is using Tenerife as a springboard to the rest of Europe, and has built its European headquarters in a concrete blockhouse on the hillside above Los Cristianos. Two underground levels house a network of computers to help co-ordinate its European strategy.

The American touch is visible everywhere, from the pool-side bars to the fitness clubs and jacuzzis. Castle Harbour is modelled almost exactly on a condominium in Orlando.

The first charter flights start coming in from Tampa this summer - surprisingly only 4% hours by air from Tenerife. The key to sales is the good weather. Britons, Germans and Scandinavians will pay from £26,000 to over £100,000 for an apartment in the sun - even if it looks onto the back of a hillside or a construction site. Because of such demand, Resort Properties expects to make a profit of £13 million on Castle Harbour alone.

Beyond the safety of the apartments, Tenerife's charms are dubious at best. There are few natural beaches, and sand has to be shipped in from Africa. New beaches cannot be used for six months because of the snakes and scorpions which get sucked up with the sand.

Playa de las Americas, a sleazy strip of beach, bars and nightclubs across the valley from Los Cristianos, was a ghetto for drug barons until Spanish paramilitary police swooped on the island two years ago. The mob-killings have ended, but drugs and vice are freely available in the maze of underground "Veronica" bars.

At Castle Harbour, studio flats sell for £31,000. They come fully furnished - the goods are shipped in from the US - and visitors are told they will get a guaranteed rental income if they buy. The catch is they must give the company free use of the room for 11 months of the year, and cannot change any of the furniture.

The concept appeals to investors, since the income - perhaps £2,800 a year after costs - would go a long way to meeting mortgage payments. What the brochures do not say is that the amount of income is not guaranteed. The company simply agrees to pay some sort of net return, after paying a maintenance charge, which is £680 in the case of Castle Harbour.

Perhaps more disturbingly, the scheme may be discontinued at any time. Mr Robert Dalton, a manager with Resort Properties, said it would only continue as long as there was a profit to be made. Investors can upgrade to other apartments built by the company without losing the guaranteed income. This gives the company an incentive to keep building, and encourages investors to stay with the group.

But what if the merry-go-round should stop? Investors could find themselves locked in with little more than a sun-tan to show for their money. And timeshare customers who were sold on the promise of a paradise resort, may find paradise lost.

The holiday price that started at £49 and went up to £6,400

LUIS GONZALEZ, smiling broadly, strode across the patio at the Beverly Hills Club. We went upstairs to a cafeteria, packed with people studying brochures. A wall of one-way glass ran along one side, reflecting the tables and chairs.

Sr Gonzalez said that £49 a week would buy a holiday anywhere in the world. He had the brochures to prove it, filled with photographs of sun-kissed beaches and sparkling oceans. There was no catch: just £49 a week - and another £95 to pay for the upkeep of your room. So two weeks' holiday would cost no more than £290 - apart from the airfare, of course.

Next there was a tour of the club. There were swimming pools, a fitness centre, bars and satellite television. Soon, Sr Gonzalez said, a magnificent new complex called Hollywood Mirage would be built nearby. Resort Properties planned to promote it in style by putting the name Hollywood Mirage in big white letters on the mountainside. "We've calculated that the Spanish authorities will take three years to make us take it off," he added.

There was a choice of one-bed apartments or studios. "Let's put it this way," said Sr Gonzalez. "I make a living off commission. The higher you buy, the better for me. But let's be straight on the other side. You don't need a one-bedroom like I don't need a one-bedroom, so I'm not going to try to sell you something you don't need."

Back in the cafe, I was told that £6,400 would buy a studio for life - the first time that the new, much higher amount had been mentioned. All that was needed was a 30 per cent deposit - payable anyway I liked.

From behind a mirrored door, a "financial specialist" emerged. He asked if I had a Visa credit card for the deposit. I did. He asked if I



Welcome smiles: The Beverly Hills Club

could borrow the rest in the UK. I could. Was it something that could be arranged within seven days? It was.

Saying I wanted to think it over, the tone of the meeting changed. A studio could not be held without a deposit, I was warned. I pointed out that paying £6,400 was like paying for six years' of holidays upfront. "Ah, but you're talking about holidays forever, anywhere in the world."

I insisted on coming back the next day. "If you come back in the morning, would you be happy to pay that?" - he pointed to the

Finally giving up, the specialist retreated behind the one-way glass. Leading me down the stairs, Sr Gonzalez whispered: "Don't tell anyone, but I think I can hold a studio overnight for you. Also, I don't normally do this, but I will give you £200 in air vouchers to spend anywhere in Europe. Just come back in the morning."

Clutching my free gifts - two T-shirts and a bottle of champagne - I made my escape.

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